





BARBARIAN MUSIC ALTERNATIVES #447  
The music the only kids-watching thing about us

# I EAT KIDS



*Maribye Wilson*

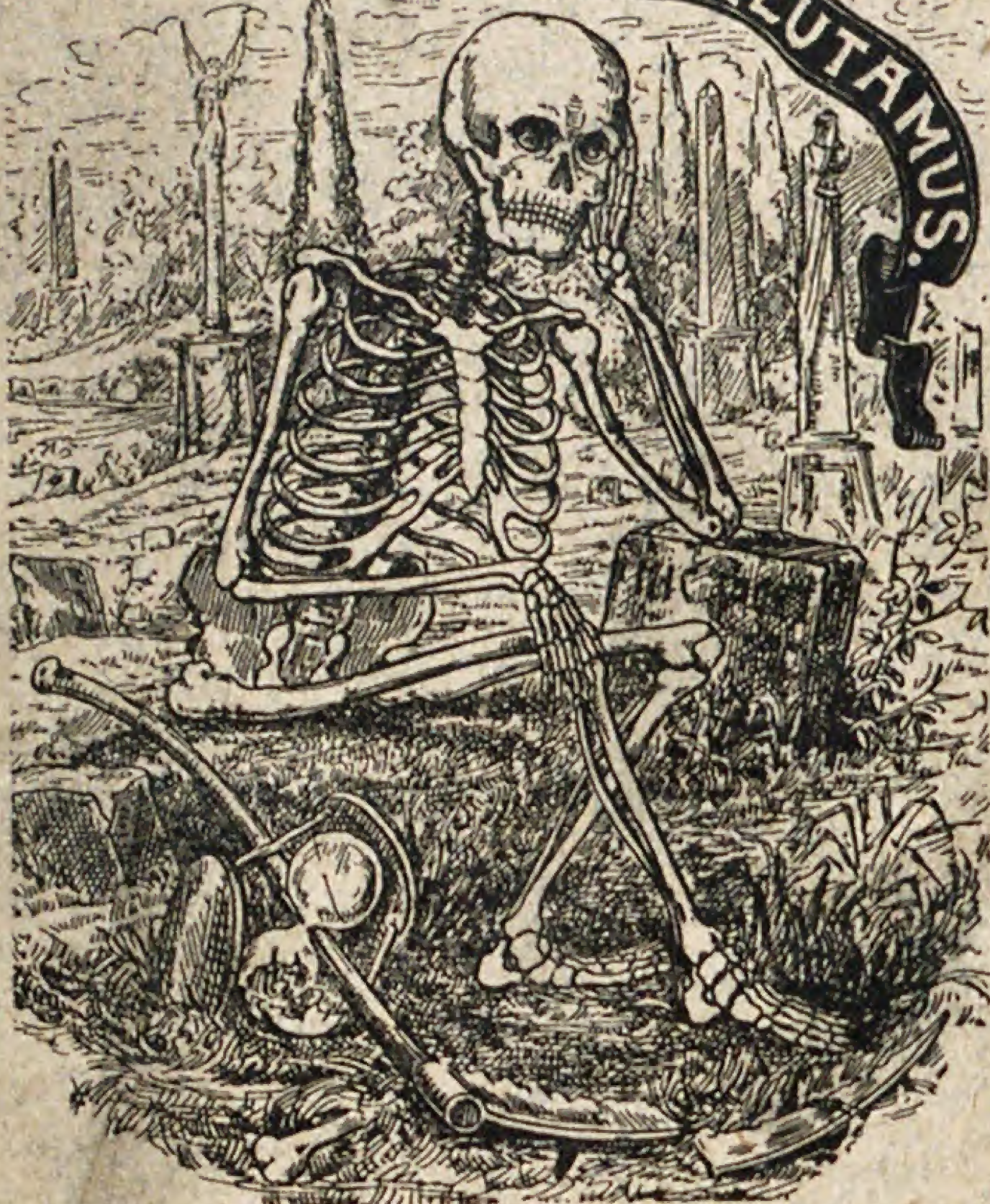
and OTHER SONGS  
for REBELLIOUS CHILDREN

**BARRY LOUIS POLISAR**

[MyConfinedSpace.com](http://MyConfinedSpace.com)



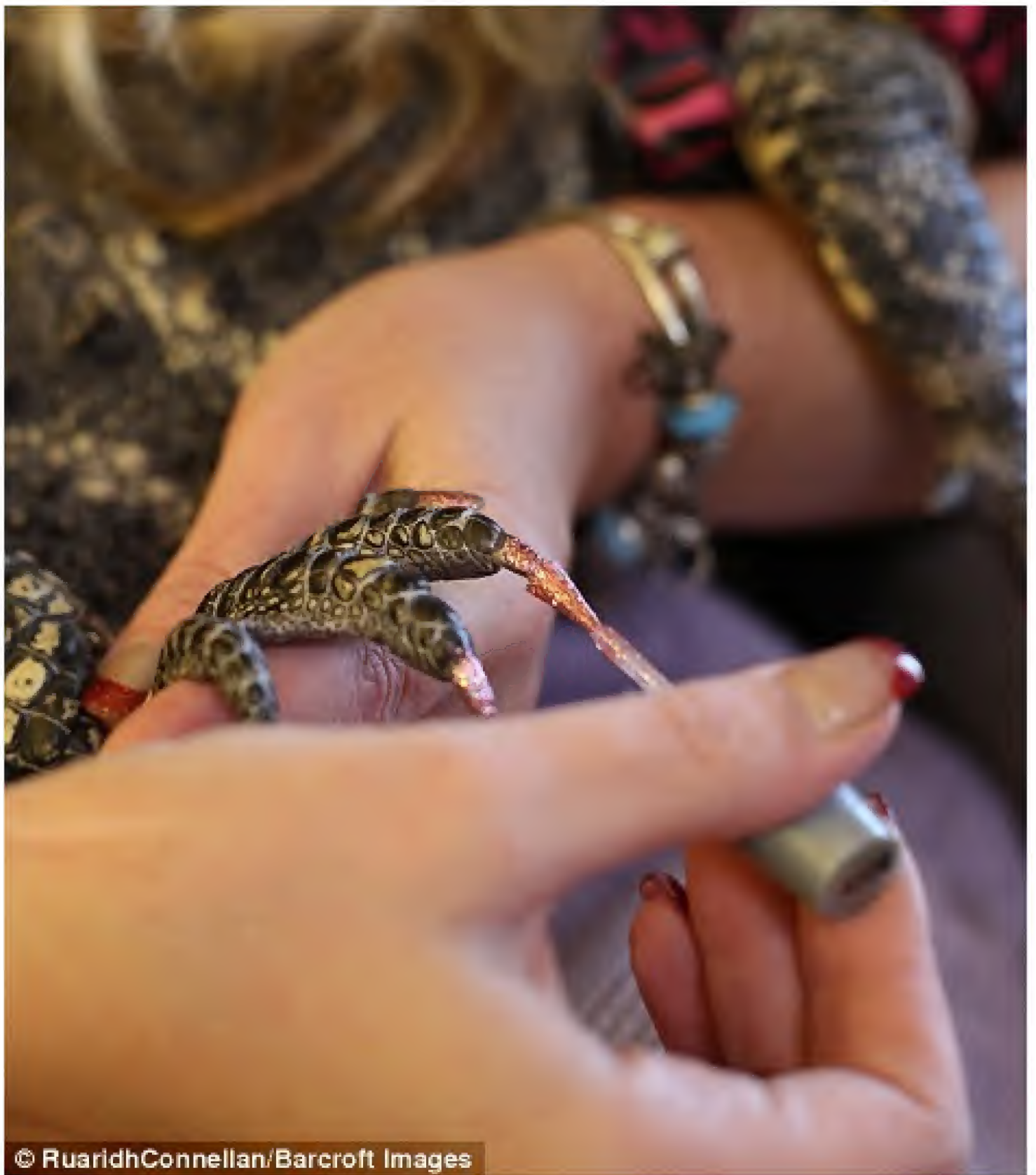
MORITURI  
TE SALUTAMUS.







© Barcroft Images



© RuaridhConnellan/Barcroft Images





© Barcroft Images









© Barcroft Images







© Ruaridh Connellan/Barcroft Images



© RuairidhConnellan/Barcroft Images

# CRIMINAL RECORD



**1110 Douglas**  
 Name: James P. [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 21  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 150  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

James P. [unclear]  
11-1-19



**1111 [unclear]**  
 Name: [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 35  
 Height: 5' 8"  
 Weight: 140  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

[unclear]  
11-1-19



**1112 [unclear]**  
 Name: [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 25  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 150  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

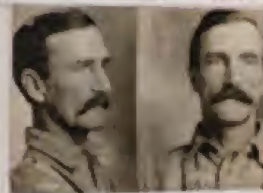
[unclear]  
11-1-19

# CRIMINAL RECORD



**1113 [unclear]**  
 Name: [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 21  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 150  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

[unclear]  
11-1-19



**1114 [unclear]**  
 Name: [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 35  
 Height: 5' 8"  
 Weight: 140  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

[unclear]  
11-1-19



**1115 [unclear]**  
 Name: [unclear]  
 Date: 11-1-19  
 Age: 25  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 150  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Hair: Dark  
 Birth: 11-1-19  
 Place: Chicago, Ill.  
 Occupation: None  
 Previous Record: None  
 Signature: [Signature]

[unclear]  
11-1-19





287 13 R 00  
21 0 00  
LOUIS STIRLING. 23.7.24.

WILLIAM ALBERT C. MORRISH.  
1402. 25 MI 13. 17-6-25.  
12 M

A2





Name	GILES Thomas <i>Head</i>		L.P. No. 204/27	
Aliases	Thomas O'Malley, "Doggy" — <i>Head in</i>			
Born	1890	Trade	Labourer	Comp. fresh
Build	prop.	Eyes	blue	Ht. 5'6" Hair brown
Marks	Scars on left fr. head and rt. knee. Tatt. on left arm.			
Peculiarities				
M.O., etc.	Housebreaker. Also convictions for larceny of metal, Uttering counterfeit coins and larceny from vehicles. Breaks window.			
Associates	203, 355, 1216, 1094, 433.			





Name	JONES William		L.P. No. 300/29	
Aliases	Robert Codd. <b>DEAD</b>			
Born	1878	Trade	Laborer	Comp. Fresh
Build	Slender	Eyes	Grey	Ht. 5' 6" Hair Grey
Marks	Pierced heart, scar on head, naked woman			
Peculiarities	DIED IN AC TION HOTEL Back of left hand.			
M.O. etc.	Larceny, Burglary, House & Shopbreaking.			
Uses various methods of entry.	Works alone.			
Plays violin outside Public Houses, Conviction in America for shooting a man.				

---

**DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c.**

---

**LEADBEATER & CO., DRUGGISTS,**  
STABLER'S OLD STAND, ESTABLISHED 1792,  
*Nos. 5 and 7, South Fairfax Street,*  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA,

**H**AVE in store a full stock of Drugs, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Acids, Genuine Patent Medicines, Dye Stuffs, Surgical Instruments, Perfumery, Soaps, Sponges, Congress Water, Medicine Chests, Spices, Coal Oil Lamps and Chimneys, Pocket Medicine Cases, and all other goods usually found in a well conducted Drug establishment.  
10 mo 29—col m



**RE-ANIMATION.**—When the most important functions of life are suspended, and those who are invalids by inheritance or imprudence, are reduced to the most deplorable state of nervous debility, it is not in despair that relief is to be found; for there is a medicine that has restored thousands, who were apparently tottering on the brink of the grave, after the best advice, and all other remedies had been tried in vain, which is the **AROMATIC LOZENGES of STEEL**; prepared and sold by the Proprietor, Mr. J. P. Seddon; and wholesale and retail, by his Agent, Mr. S. Alnutt, No. 158, Strand, near Somerset House, price 7s. the box, or near four boxes in one, 22s.; there are also packets, at 5l. 5s. each, which contain the quantity of six of the large boxes; these can only be had as above.—**N. B.** Be careful to observe the signature of Mr. J. P. Seddon, and also the affidavit of J. B. Falkess round the box.

# Finally some good news

Polar bear cub turns bucket into helmet



President	Years	Vacation Days	Avg/Year
Barack Obama	5.5	150	27
George W. Bush	8	1020	128
Bill Clinton	8	174	22
George H. W. Bush	4	220	55
Ronald Reagan	8	349	44
Jimmy Carter	4	79	20
Lyndon Johnson	5.5	484	88
Dwight Eisenhower	8	456	57



IN NOMINE DI SUMI ORDO  
QUOMODO IN SC<sup>A</sup> ROMANA ECC<sup>L</sup>A

**D**UM IN SC<sup>A</sup> **LECTOR ORDINAT<sup>2</sup>**  
traditus a parentibus magis  
tro sacris apicibus fuerit edoc  
tus atque clericus iam legitima  
æte adultus. & ad legendum pru  
denter instructus. si patrē habet.  
& p<sup>ro</sup> som<sup>ma</sup> p<sup>ro</sup>u<sup>er</sup>ba ualeat. suggerat de eo  
ad domnū apostolicū sic. Et si patrē  
non habuerit. p<sup>ro</sup> p<sup>ro</sup>pinqui aut amici  
eius intercedant p<sup>ro</sup> ipso. Domine.  
filium habeo. aut p<sup>ro</sup>u<sup>er</sup>ba. uel ē filius  
amici mei. aut fuit. iam imbutū lecti  
one sc<sup>A</sup>. & arbitror qd condigne  
in conspectu uestro ad legendum.  
Si iubet sc<sup>A</sup>tas u<sup>ost</sup>ra. supplico. ut sc<sup>A</sup>  
ecc<sup>L</sup>a ex permisso u<sup>ost</sup>ro efficiatur  
lector. Tunc si domino apostoli  
co bene conplacuerit. dicat; Ve  
niat. & audiamus eū in ecc<sup>L</sup>a legen







L. 1.  
fol. x



Q uonia  
VOY  
cona  
COHA  
ration  
RATI  
bis  
BIS  
tradi  
TRADI  
ipsi v  
IPSI  
Visum es  
VISO ES  
a p  
AP  
ter  
TER

outime theophile



316

'26'

10

V

Taken out by  
 order of Capt Lee  
 Apr 3. 1884. Party  
 having led an honest  
 industrious life for  
 a number of years  
 previous.



Chas. W. New  
 St. Francisville

21

'20'



Richard Sandusky  
 St. Francisville



Wm. J. O'Brien  
 St. Francisville

22

23

'2'



Wm. Holding  
 St. Francisville



Wm. Reed  
 St. Francisville





START

SHARE

1/106



Print

## Bear spotted near Southington schools

Posted: Feb 28, 2017 7:19 AM PST

Updated: Feb 28, 2017 7:19 AM PST

By Joseph Wenzel IV, News Editor

CONNECT

SOUTHINGTON, CT (WFSB) - Two schools in Southington were placed in "Secure School Mode" after a black bear was spotted nearby on Tuesday morning.

According to Southington Superintendent Tim Connellan, there was a bear sighting near DePaolo Middle School. Connellan added that the animal was moving in the direction on Spring Lake at the time.

The "Secure School Modes" at Joseph A. Depaolo Middle and Hatton Elementary schools were brief and as of 10 a.m., the schools were on normal operations.

Police informed school officials that the bear was moving eastward in the direction of Rogers Orchards and "away from any of any schools."


An email was sent out to parents on Tuesday morning.

To check out other animal sightings in Connecticut backyards, [click here](#).



A Black Bear, similar to this one, was spotted near Southington schools on Tuesday morning. (DEEP photo)

Skull Island



Skull Island

3.0 ★★★★★ · 5,675 reviews

Archaeological Site

Directions

SAVE


NEARBY


SEND TO YOUR PHONE

SHARE

discoverskullisland.com

Add a label





200 Photos

Add a photo

Review summary

5

4

3

2

1

3.0

★★★★★

5,675 reviews

"Watched Avengers on the ride over and saw a dude who looked just like Loki!"

"Brought my girlfriend here for a tropical island getaway."

"I sat down at the desk but he's a screw..."

A Google Map of the Pacific Ocean, centered on the South Pacific. A red pin marks 'Skull Island' in the central Pacific, west of South America. The map shows the outlines of North and South America, with various countries and cities labeled. The Google logo is visible at the bottom center of the map area.



# MATTOON GETS JITTERS FROM GAS ATTACKS

MATTOON, Ill., Sept. 8.—Groggy as Londoners under protracted aerial blitzing, this town's bewildered citizens reacted today under the repeated attack of a most sinister foe who has dropped a deadly nerve gas over its houses and has killed out of 14 known victims.

Several others dying in the area in response to the alarm, lie under the influence of the gas last night.

All telephone lines remained open Mattoon would receive a most urgent summons for a de-manded, private adventure when that town has only 10000 and as the gas spread large numbers of men and state police and houses of worship.

From the city center, from all parts of the town, the gas which is now the most deadly and, after weeks of a long time,

# "Anesthetic Prowler" on Loose

**MRS. KEARNEY  
AND DAUGHTER  
FIRST VICTIMS**

**BY G. O. P.  
'S ATTACK  
ROOSEVELT**

**Wash. Bureau: Police  
San Francisco City  
Kala Shree**

**Excess, Minnesota,  
Pioneer Press: Lynn  
Graham (Spokane)**

A special police unit was sent out to investigate the case of a woman who was found dead in a rooming house in San Francisco. The woman was identified as Kala Shree, a Hindu widow who had been living in the rooming house for some time. The police are looking for a man who was seen leaving the rooming house shortly before the woman was found.

The case has been referred to the local police department for investigation. The woman was found in a rooming house in San Francisco. The police are looking for a man who was seen leaving the rooming house shortly before the woman was found.



The War in Colorado

**CONGRESS TO  
TAKE RECESS  
ON SEPT. 15**

**Great Writing and  
Fate Shaped as Bill  
Is Passed (Spokane)**

At this time, the Congress is expected to take a recess on September 15. The passage of a bill is expected to be a significant event, as it will shape the future of the country. The bill is expected to be passed by a large margin, and its passage will be a major victory for the administration.

ALL  
FED  
WIT  
EYES  
ON  
THE  
CASE  
OF  
THE  
WIDOW  
KEARNEY  
AND  
DAUGHTER  
FIRST  
VICTIMS  
BY  
G. O. P.  
'S  
ATTACK  
ROOSEVELT  
Wash. Bureau: Police  
San Francisco City  
Kala Shree  
Excess, Minnesota,  
Pioneer Press: Lynn  
Graham (Spokane)





One in a series



- If you're planning an adventure trip to visit the rainforests of Australia or Indonesia, here's something you should be aware of. As you traverse these densely-vegetated forests you may run across an innocent-looking shrub with heart-shaped leaves, dubbed with the Aboriginal name "Gympie Gympie tree." Don't let its innocent looks and whimsical name fool you. This formidable plant is, for good reason, also known as "the suicide tree."
- The phrase "gympie gympie" means "stinging tree" and that's what this horrifying plant does, it stings – viciously. The large green leaves, the stems, the berries, and the trunks are completely covered with a hair-like fuzz. Under the microscope, it becomes clear that this "fuzz" is actually composed of tiny hollow silica-tipped hypodermic needles. The merest brush of exposed skin against any part of the plant results in agonizing pain when the needles embed themselves into flesh and deliver a potent neurotoxin called moroidin. The tiny sharp needles are even able to penetrate rubber gloves.
- The pain is, for lack of a stronger word, excruciating, and large weeping welts soon form. An Australian man named Ernie Rider, who was slapped in the face and torso with the plant in 1963, described his experience: "For two or three days the pain was almost unbearable; I couldn't work or sleep, then it was pretty bad pain for another fortnight or so. The stinging persisted for two years and recurred every time I had a cold shower... There's nothing to rival it; it is ten times worse than anything else."
- The treatments include immediately washing the exposed skin with diluted hydrochloric acid, then using hair-removal waxing strips to peel the tiny hairs away from the skin. If hair removal strips and hydrochloric acid are not

available, plastering the skin with any adhesive tape and then ripping it off will provide at least some relief. The mere discomfort of tearing hair follicles off the skin in no way compares to the intense pain caused by the poison.

- If the unfortunate victim tries to wash away the sting, the tiny hair-like needles of the gympie gympie plant will remain embedded in the skin, and the resulting pain will persist for years. The best recourse after encountering the plant is to avoid touching the affected skin and immediately proceed to a medical facility for treatment. The bad news is that even after being treated, the pain can persist for weeks, months, or even years. The affected area will be especially sensitive to changes in temperature for a long period after exposure. Even dead, dried leaves that are decades old can inflict their poison.
- In fact, even standing near a gympie gympie plant can be dangerous, because the wind releases small dried needles into the air, and these can cause distressful symptoms when inhaled including nosebleeds, severe itching, burning rashes, sneezing, and asthma-like difficulties in breathing.
- The shrub produces clusters of rich red, purple, or pink berries similar in appearance to raspberries or mulberries, and these berries are edible if the hairs are removed from them first. A number of bird species and even some marsupials seem to be impervious to the poison, eating both the leaves and the berries, thereby spreading the seeds in their droppings.
- The plant prefers to grow in disturbed areas such as logged areas or places disrupted by storms or floods. It grows in sunny calm areas and is often found along streambanks, hiking trails, and roadways.
- According to researcher Marina Hurley, "Being stung is the worst kind of intense pain you can imagine – like being burnt with hot acid and electrocuted at the same time," Pity the poor Army officer who ended up committing suicide to escape the intolerable pain after mistakenly using a gympie gympie leaf as toilet paper. □

- Then there's the confusion of heteronyms, which are words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings: "The winds began to buffet the outdoor buffet." "The sewer threw her sewing into the sewer." "The post office is resorting to resorting the mail." "The entrance of the cave will entrance you." "The boy moped because he couldn't have a moped." "The content of this gift will make you content." "He held the lead in the race till his legs felt like lead."



- Some proper names have been shortened over the years to abbreviated versions of the original nouns. For example, the word “napron” became “an apron” and “nauger” became “an auger”; and “an ekename” meaning “an additional name” became “a nickname.” Likewise, some given names have also transformed. “Mine Edward,” for example, has shortened to Ned; “mine Ellen” to Nell, and “mine Ann” to Nan.

- There are also capitonyms, which are words that change pronunciation and meaning when capitalized. For instance: "Please polish the Polish tea set." "Herb loves herbs." "Mt. Rainier is always rainier." "I own a mobile home in Mobile." "It's always nice in Nice."



- Here are some examples of why English is said to be one of the most difficult languages to learn. The word “contronym” denotes words that can have two contradictory meanings. “Sanction” means both permission to do something, or forbidding it from being done. “Fast” can mean both moving quickly or stuck in place. A horse that has “bolted” is starting up quickly, but a door that is bolted is shut tight. There are dozens of such contronyms, too numerous to list.

- 
- In Greek, “onym” means “word” or “name.”  
It’s now the root of words such as anonymous,  
pseudonym, synonym and antonym.
-



- In the 1500s there was a silver mine near the town of Joachimsthal, Germany. Silver coins minted from silver mined there were first called "Joachimsthaler" which was shortened to "thaler" before being transformed into "daler" before becoming our "dollar."

- The word “polysemy” means the condition of having many meanings. For instance, the verb “to get” can mean “procure” (I’ll get your coat), “become” (I get scared easily), or “understand” (I get it).



- In Latin, the word "bullire" meant "to boil" or bubble. That word went into Old Italian as "garbuglio" meaning "a mess" and that went into Italian as "garbuzo" which was adopted by the Normans who took it to England where it became the word "garbage."

- "Hodgepodge" comes from "hochepot," a French legal term that originally meant gathering different things in order to divide them equally. It then came to mean a dish combining a number of ingredients.



Impress your friends by dropping these real words into your conversation: *Foozel* - a bungled golf stroke; *Groak* - to stare hopefully at another's food; *Schizocarps* - the pinwheels that maple trees drop; *Vomer* - the soft bone separating the nostrils; *Aiglet* - that little plastic tip at the end of a shoelace.

- 
- “Buttonhole” was originally “buttonhold.”  
“Sparrow-grass” became “asparagus.”  
“Shamefaced” evolved from “shamefast” as in  
“stuck fast.” “Kitty corner” or “catty corner”  
was once “catercorner” from the French word  
“quatre” meaning “four,” as in four corners in  
a room.



- The story goes that when Captain Cook discovered Australia, his sailors brought an unusual animal aboard ship. Cook had the sailors go ashore and ask a native what they called the curious creature. When asked, the native replied, “kangaroo,” which they later learned meant, “What did you say?”

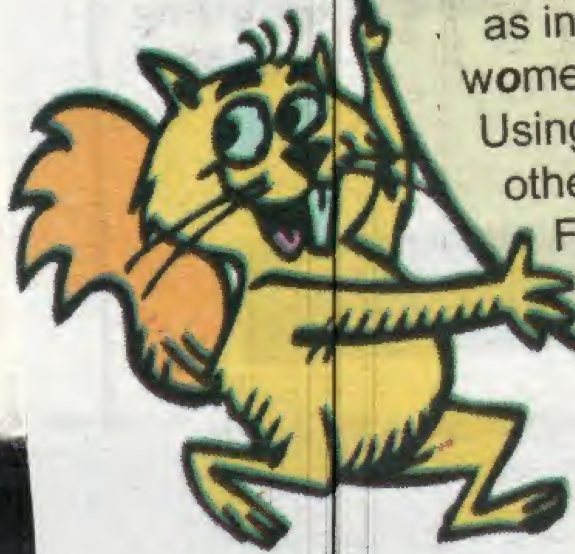
- Yucatan, a peninsula in Mexico, means “What?” as in “What are you saying?” which is what the Mexican natives said when the Spanish conquistadors first landed on their shores and asked in a language foreign to them, “What do you call this place?”



- While the word “ruthless” once had a companion word “ruth” meaning compassion, Tidbits leaves you now with some curious things to ponder: We have “inept,” “disheveled,” “incorrigible,” and “unkempt” but we don’t have “ept” or “sheveled” or “corrigible” or “kempt.” Can you ever have a kit without a caboodle? Or a beck without a call, a cranny without a nook, or a spic without a span? Where are all the *guilty* bystanders and the *normal* bedfellows? Why are all swoops of the ‘fell’ variety? Where are all the people who are combobulated, gruntled, chalant, ruly, gainly, or peccable? And why can’t there ever be just one smithereen? □

## NUGGETS OF KNOWLEDGE

George Bernard Shaw tried unsuccessfully to will his fortune to anyone who could invent a better alphabet. Shaw declared it was possible to use the word "ghoti" to spell the word fish, using the *gh* as in *enough*; the *o* as in *women*; and *ti* as in *nation*. Using that logic, there are other ways to spell fish. For instance, "*phusi*" – *physics/busy/pension*.



## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

\* It was American philosopher George Santayana who made the following sage observation: "Language is like money, without which specific relative values may well exist and be felt, but cannot be reduced to a common denominator."

\* If you're like me, you find it hard to resist a good book, and their abundant availability presents a problem: Good books are being published faster than they can be read. This leads to an extensive TBR (to-be-read) list, much of which is stacked on the bedside tables of readers the world over. (The introduction of ebooks has only worsened the problem; now the books stack up with no visual reminder of how many there are.) I don't have a solution, but it may help to know that the Japanese have a word to describe this behavior. "Tsundoku" means "the acquiring of reading materials followed by letting them pile up and subsequently never reading them."

\* Polar bears can grow to be massive, weighing more than 2,000 pounds as adults. However, when they're born, polar bear cubs weigh no more than a pound.

\* In January of 1914, the Ford Motor Company doubled workers' wages, to \$5 per day, stating, "We want those who have helped us to produce this great institution and are helping to maintain it to share our prosperity." Describing this unprecedented move, The Wall Street Journal opined "[Ford has] committed economic blunders, if not crimes." Confounding critics' expectations, Ford doubled its profits within two years.

\* Religious scholars know that they'll find no mention of peanuts, cashews, pecans or macadamias in the Bible; the only nuts mentioned in that book are almonds and pistachios.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "The walls of books around him, dense with the past, formed a kind of insulation against the present world and its disasters." -- *Ross Macdonald*





## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

\* **On Feb. 5, 1777**, Georgia becomes the first state to abolish the inheritance practices of primogeniture and entail. Primogeniture ensured that the eldest son inherited the largest portion of his father's property. Entail guaranteed that an estate remain in the hands of only one male heir.

\* **On Feb. 1, 1790**, the Supreme Court of the United States meets for the first time, with Chief Justice John Jay of New York presiding. The Constitution granted the Supreme Court ultimate jurisdiction over all laws.

\* **On Jan. 30, 1835**, in the House chamber of the U.S. Capitol, President Andrew Jackson survives the first attempted assassination of a U.S. president. A man fired two pistols at Jackson at close range, but incredibly, both failed to discharge.

\* **On Feb. 4, 1961**, "The Misfits," starring Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable and Montgomery Clift, is released. The film about four rootless losers trying to survive in the modern-day West was largely ignored until Gable and Monroe both died shortly after its release.

\* **On Jan. 31, 1971**, Apollo 14 is successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a manned mission to the moon. After suffering some initial problems in docking, astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr. and Edgar D. Mitchell made the third U.S. moon landing on Feb. 5.

\* **On Feb. 2, 1996**, dancer, actor and choreographer Gene Kelly dies at age 83. Kelly graduated with a degree in economics during the Great Depression, but with finance jobs scarce, he got his start by working at a dancing school partly owned by his mother.

\* **On Feb. 3, 2002**, the New England Patriots stun the heavily favored St. Louis Rams, 20-17, for their first Super Bowl victory. Pats' kicker Adam Vinatieri made the winning 48-yard field goal as the clock expired.



## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

\* **On March 1, 1692**, in Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, authorities begin seeking out witches after two children began experiencing fits. After a doctor concluded that the children were suffering the effects of witchcraft, others stepped forward and incriminated more than 150 women and men of Satanic practices.

\* **On March 5, 1770**, a mob of American colonists gathers at the Customs House in Boston and begins taunting British soldiers. The British regulars responded by firing their rifles, killing five colonists. Later, two British soldiers had their thumbs branded with an "M" for murder as punishment.

\* **On Feb. 27, 1922**, in Washington, D.C., the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, is unanimously declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

\* **On March 4, 1933**, at the height of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt is inaugurated as the 32nd president of the United States. In his inaugural address, Roosevelt outlined his "New Deal," an expansion of the federal government as an instrument of employment opportunity and welfare.

\* **On March 3, 1952**, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds a New York state law that prohibits communists from teaching in public schools. The statute applied to anyone who called for the overthrow of the government.

\* **On March 2, 1966**, the Ford Motor Company celebrates the production of its 1 millionth Mustang, a white convertible. More than 400,000 Mustangs were sold in the first year, perhaps boosted by its appearance in the James Bond movie "Goldfinger."

\* **On Feb. 28, 1982**, the J. Paul Getty Museum becomes the world's most richly endowed museum when it receives a \$1.2 billion bequest from the American oil billionaire. Getty died in 1976, but legal wrangling over his fortune by his children and ex-wives kept his will in probate until 1982.



## THOSE AMAZING PLANTS

One in a series

### THE CORPSE FLOWER

Eww, what's that awful stench? If that beautiful plant has a repulsive odor, it just might be a corpse flower. Read along and discover the facts on this very unusual plant.



- Found in the humid rainforests of Sumatra, the corpse flower is the world's largest flowering plant, reaching heights of ten to 15 feet, with blossoms up to six feet wide. It was first discovered in Sumatra in 1878 by an Italian botanist. Although it is cultivated at many arboretums worldwide, it grows wild in Asia's tropical regions.
- The corpse flower is an inflorescence, meaning that a cluster of flowers is arranged on one stem. A leafy sheath known as a spathe, and resembling a large petal, encloses the flower cluster. Irises and crocuses have the same construction. The corpse flower's stem alone weighs about 110 pounds.
- The large dark burgundy red flower of the corpse plant might well beckon a sampling of its scent. However, beginning about 12 hours before it blooms, it emits a very strong pungent odor similar to rotting meat or decaying flesh.
- It requires seven to ten years of growth before the corpse flower can bloom, and they usually bloom only once every few decades and remain open for just 24 to 48 hours. Nurseries and arboretums around the world schedule special events in conjunction with the blooming, which

always gather large crowds of curious visitors.

- The bloom usually opens between mid-afternoon and late evening and remains open all night. After 12 hours, it already begins to wilt. The repugnant scent will linger another 12 hours afterwards.
- So why does this unusual plant smell so terrible? The corpse flower has both male and female flowers, yet they are unable to pollinate. This means they must attract pollinators in order to safeguard propagation of its species. Carnivorous insects, such as dung beetles and flesh flies, feed on dead flesh. In order to draw these pollinators in, the flower is a dark burgundy color with a pungent odor that imitates a dead animal carcass. The female flower opens first, then wilts. A day or two later, the male flower opens, thus preventing the flower from self-pollinating.
- These flowers also have the unusual ability to warm up to 98 degrees F, which further boosts the odor and fools the insects into believing the flower is food. The spiked center part of the flower is covered with a large quantity of pollen. The bugs fly inside, realize there is nothing to eat, then fly away. But their legs are covered with pollen that ensures pollination. When the pollination period is complete, the flower collapses.
- What gives this rare flower its powerful stench? Several chemicals are released by the plant, including dimethyl trisulfide, the same chemical emitted by limburger cheese, and trimethylamine, also found in rotting fish and ammonia. The isovaleric acid found in the corpse flower is the same as that which causes sweaty socks to stink, as well as indole, a chemical that lends its strong aroma to human feces. □





## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

\* It was beloved 20th-century American humorist and author Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: "A king can stand people fighting, but he can't last long if people start thinking."

\* The next time you're dining at a seafood restaurant, consider this tidbit: Those who study such things say that 80 percent of a crab or lobster's dry weight is wax.

\* Researchers at Cornell University have determined that if chickens are kept in a coop that is artificially lighted to simulate a 28-hour day, the eggs laid by those chickens will be larger and have stronger shells.

\* If you try to come up with an image of the pioneers' westward trek in search of land, gold and new futures, what comes to mind is likely to be covered wagons (also known at the time as Prairie Schooners) crossing vast grasslands. A group of wagons circling up at dusk has become emblematic of that long journey. Most people assume that the wagons were placed in a circle for protection, to keep potential intruders out, but that's not entirely true. While that may have been an advantage to the arrangement, the primary motivation was to keep livestock from wandering off.

\* The English word "infant" comes from a Latin term whose literal meaning is "one unable to speak."

\* You might be surprised to learn that fruit flies can become intoxicated, too – and they don't even have to take a drink. Just the smell of alcohol affects them.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country." – *Hermann Goring*





Next time you're at the county fair, remember the stories behind these common fair foods.

#### COTTON CANDY

- William Morrison and John C. Wharton were candy makers in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1897 they figured out that if you heat sugar and pour it onto a hot spinning bowl that has tiny holes in it, centrifugal force will shove the melted sugar through the holes and the spun sugar will be formed into very thin threads. The sugar threads can then be collected into a sweet fluffy mass that melts in the mouth. Morrison and Wharton called their new invention Fairy Floss and took it to the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904. They charged 25 cents per box for the treat, which was extremely expensive at the time. (It cost 50 cents to get into the fair.) Still, they sold nearly 70,000 boxes of the stuff. By the 1920s, Fairy Floss was a standard food at fairs, but by then Americans were calling it cotton candy.

#### PINK LEMONADE

- Acrobat Peter Conklin was running the concessions for Mabie's Mighty Circus in the south in 1857. One afternoon was so hot that they ran out of the primary ingredient in lemonade: water. Peter reportedly ran over to the tent of the trick bareback rider Fannie Jamieson. She had been soaking her red tights and red sequined outfit in a tub of water. The water was colored red from the dye. "Red dye never hurt anybody," Peter said, and commandeered the tub of pink water over her

protests. The resulting lemonade was hawked as the world's only guaranteed pink lemonade, and it sold so well that Conklin colored his lemonade pink from then on. He called it strawberry lemonade. Today's pink lemonade is usually made by adding grape juice and lemon flavoring.

#### POPCORN

- Humans have enjoyed eating popcorn since ancient times. Throughout history there have been a variety of different ways to pop the kernels ranging from clay pots buried in coals to wire baskets held above flames. But in 1885 in Chicago, Charlie Cretors invented a better popcorn popper. Merchants often had popcorn stands located in front of their business to draw customers, but they were not mobile. Charlie wanted to be able to take his popcorn popper to where ever there was a crowd gathered: fairs, theaters, picnics, beaches. So he invented a portable popper that could be either pushed by foot, pulled by horse, or mounted on a truck. Today the Cretors Company still manufactures mobile popcorn poppers and other concessions. Check out the popcorn vendor next time you go to the fair or the theater. Chances are, the popper was made by Cretors.

#### SALT WATER TAFFY

- In 1880, David Bradley opened a candy store on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. He sold many kinds of candy, including ever-popular taffy. The shop was located just two feet above sea level, and one night in 1883 the high tide pushed by a storm soaked his inventory. The next morning he was cleaning up the mess when a young girl came into the shop and asked to buy some taffy. "You mean salt water taffy?" he joked. He gave her some of the taffy, and she went back to the beach boasting about her salt water taffy to all her friends. Bradley's mother happened to overhear the exchange

and she encouraged him to capitalize on it, in order to set his taffy apart from all the other taffy sold on the boardwalk. He agreed and put out signs advertising his "salt water" taffy. The taffy, like all taffy, was made with a little water and a pinch of salt. There is no sea water involved. □

- The phrase “poppycock” originally started as a Dutch word meaning “soft dung.”
- “Exchequer” is French for the counting table where the king’s revenue was piled up and totaled and gives us the word “check.”
- About half of all English words came from other languages, absorbed from about 350 different tongues. Here are a few samples:
- “Mayday” came from the French “m’aidez” meaning “help me.”
- The Norse phrase “vind-auga” meaning “eye of the wind” became the word “window.”
- “Mobile vulgus” is Latin for “fickle crowd” and was shortened into our “mob.”



- “Bonanza” comes from the Spanish word meaning “prosperity.”

- “Curmudgeon” started out as the French “coeur méchant” meaning “evil heart.”

# MATTOON GETS JITTERS FROM GAS ATTACKS

---

MATTOON, Ill., Sept.  
9.—Groggy as Londoners  
under continued aerial























June 1846







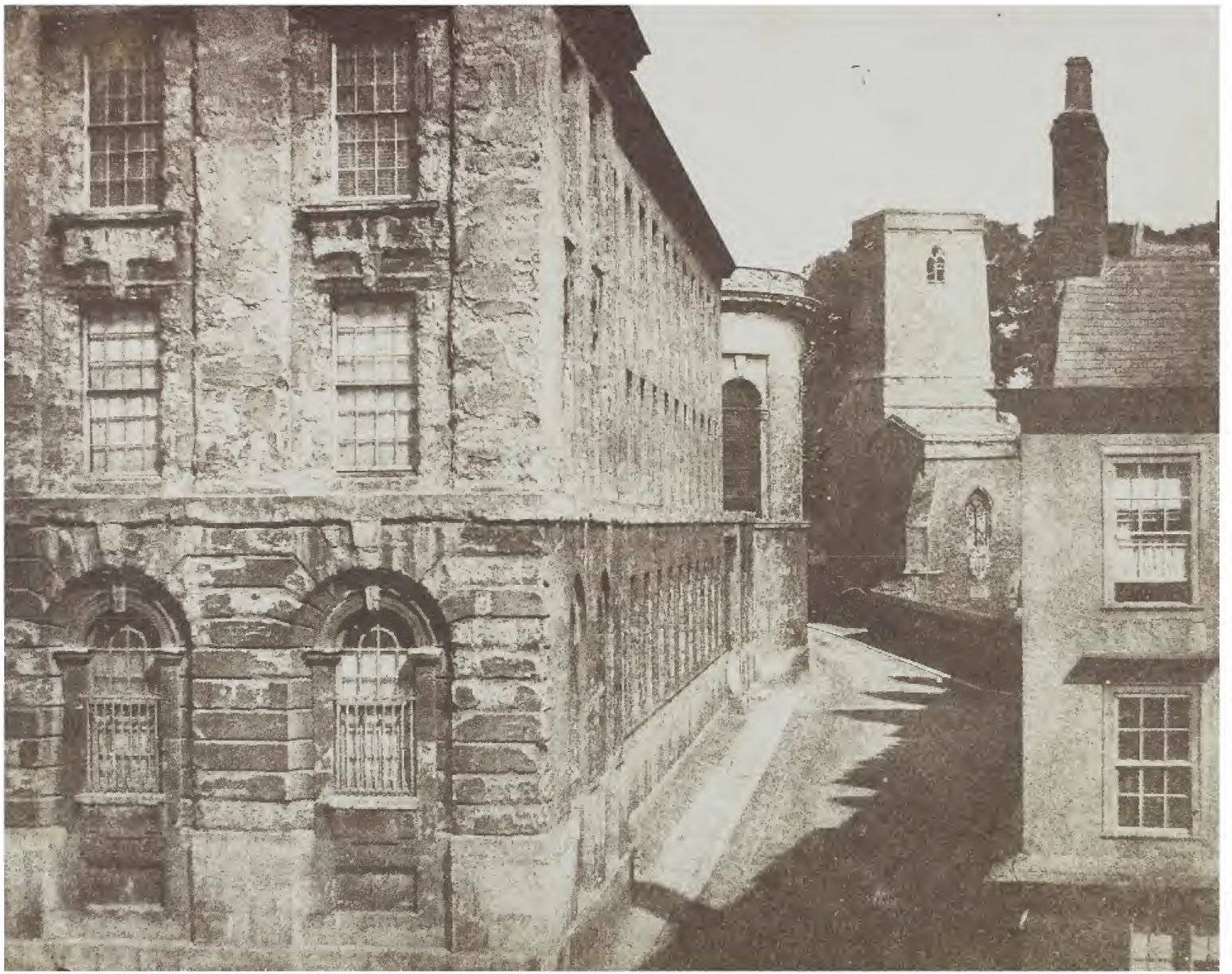














---

**The authorities now come forth with the report that it is possible to live without a brain. (As if we didn't know.)**

---

• NOT REAL SANTA •

• DROWNED IN SEA •

---

• Special to The Herald. •

• Boston, Mass., Dec. 23.—Boys •  
• and girls (and men and women, •  
• too, for that matter) rejoiced to- •  
• day when they were informed •  
• that it was not the real Santa •  
• Claus who drowned in Dor- •  
• chester bay off Marine Park last •  
• night, as first reported, but only •  
• a dummy Santa, that some bad •  
• boys probably had thrown there. •





1294. 95U 00 18.  
100:00 16' 5.8.24.  
FIORI GIUSEPPE @ PERMONTTO.



## Albanian police find ton of marijuana hidden under house

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press February 16, 2017

FILE- In this file photo taken on Thursday Aug. 25, 2015, masked police officers burn cannabis plants in Kurvelesh commune, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the Albanian capital, Tirana. Authorities in Albania say they destroyed about 2.5 million marijuana plants last year, four times more than the year before. (AP Photo/Hektor Pustina, File)

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Albanian police say they have arrested a man who allegedly had 1.25 metric tons (1.38 tons) of dried cannabis hidden under his house.

A police statement Thursday said the drugs were found packed in plastic bags and hidden in underground tunnels that the man allegedly had dug under his house in a village in Vlora district, 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of the Albanian capital, Tirana.

Police say the drugs were going to be smuggled into Italy.

Authorities in Albania say they destroyed about 2.5 million marijuana plants last year, four times more than the year before. They also reported seizing several metric tons of cannabis at border crossing points or from boats bound for neighboring Italy and Greece.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Report: Goose Creek bus driver drank 3/4 of a gallon of bourbon before arrest

by ABC News 4 Tuesday, February 21st 2017  
GOOSE CREEK, S.C. (WCIV) —

abcnews4.com



An incident report released Tuesday is providing more information about the arrest of a Goose Creek High School coach.

Troopers with the South Carolina Highway Patrol arrested 50-year-old Brent Carter Sunday in Newberry County. They say when he was taken to the county jail he admitted to drinking 3/4 of a gallon of bourbon the night before his arrest.

Officials say a trooper pulled over the activity bus full of students and at least three chaperones after watching it drive the wrong way down Highway 34 in Newberry with no headlights.

The report states when the trooper approached the bus, it nearly backed into his patrol car because it wasn't placed into park. The trooper also states in the report Carter was uneasy on his feet, had food spilled on his shirt and a drink was spilled on the bus and down the stairs near the door.

"He was very lethargic and his speech was slow and slurred," the report states. "His pupils were unusually small as well, and his eyes were bloodshot."

The report states chaperones on the bus told the officer they were frightened.

"...His driving was so bad that she and others on board were afraid. She stated he kept running off the road and driving on the rumble strips on the interstate," the report states, referencing a conversation with one of the chaperones.

Officials say Carter provided a breath sample of .18 at the Newberry County jail. The legal limit in SC is .08.

Tuesday afternoon officials with Berkeley County School District said he was no longer employed.

### Full statement released by the school district

"Mr. Brent Carter is no longer an employee of the Berkeley County School District (BCSD). Mr. Carter's employment with BCSD ended on February 21, 2017.

Mr. Carter was employed by BCSD for 13 years, beginning in August 2003. Over the course of his employment, Mr. Carter worked as a study hall aide, an in school suspension aide, a computer lab assistant and a B team football coach for Goose Creek High School.

All BCSD employees are subject to the highest standards of background clearance, to include a SLED and sex offender registry check. Any employee who seeks to operate a school bus is required to pass an additional layer of clearance that includes driver trainings, a 3-year MVR review and a pre-employment drug test. Additionally, any employee approved to operate a school bus is subject to random drug testing and must receive certification from the South Carolina State Department of Education to operate a school bus with children present.

Appropriate Berkeley County School District personnel are fully cooperating with law enforcement and will not be providing additional details or statements concerning the ongoing investigation."

The activity bus Carter was driving was returning to Goose Creek from a theater/drama club event.

Check back with ABC News 4 as we continue to develop this story.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## 3-year-old survived for 'several days' after mother died inside apartment [kdvr.com](#)

---

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. -- Police are investigating after a woman was found dead in an apartment in East Hartford with her 3-year-old living inside.

A social worker arrived at the home on Monday and tried to enter. She was able to convince the child to unlock the door and let her in, according to WTIC. That's when the social worker found the 37-year-old woman dead inside and called police.

Police said the woman had been dead for "several days," but not did not know an exact time.

The child survived by eating cereal and believed her mother had been sleeping, according to Lt. Joshua Litwin. The child was taken to Connecticut Children's Medical Center to be checked out but was okay.

Susan Tash, who lives in the same apartment complex, said she was shocked to find out the woman had died.

"I realized that it's right above me and it's the girl who had the little baby who's the same age as my granddaughter," said Tash.

Others in the apartment complex told WTIC they are struggling with the grisly news.

"I have four girls you know, I love to death. And it's like a sad thing, you know," said neighbor Jermaine Hawkins. "I hate to hear that."

Police are not releasing the name of the woman at this time. East Hartford Police are now handling the investigation. The Department of Children and Families were also called to investigate.

The medical examiner's office will determine how the woman died.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 8 times Disney sugar-coated Germany's cruel kids' tales

thelocal.de

The Local

6 October 2016

12:25 CEST+02:00

Disney's endearing family movies drew heavily on the Grimms' fairy tales - but left out all the child abuse, cannibalism, and murder.

When the German brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm started collecting folktales, they probably didn't expect that the stories would still be read to kids around the world 200 years later.

The narrations were first published in two volumes between 1812 and 1815 under the title *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* (Children's and Household Tales). Over the years some stories were revised and others were added, so that the book now contains some 200 tales, many of which were adopted from oral tradition.

And a little over a hundred years after the initial publication, thousands of viewers were gazing in amazement as the stories unfolded on movie screens - many of them made by world-famous film producer Walt Disney.

But the Grimms' fairy tales often contained elements of child abuse, murder or even cannibalism that Disney then - and the Walt Disney Company still today - didn't seem to find child-appropriate.

Here are eight times Disney sugar-coated the German brothers' stories.

### 1. Rapunzel (aka. Tangled)

In Disney's "Tangled" (2010), Rapunzel is kept in a tower by her controlling mother, Gothel, until one day a young man helps her escape and they live happily ever after.

In the Grimm version though, the road to young romance is a lot more rocky.

The story goes that Rapunzel lets down her hair so that a prince can climb it up to her window, but when the evil sorceress that guards her gets wind of what's happening, she cuts off Rapunzel's hair and keeps it for herself.

One day upon climbing up the rope of hair dangled by the sorceress, the prince finds the witch instead of his beloved girlfriend and throws himself from the tower in desperation, landing face-first in a bed of thorns and thus blinding himself.

The prince then wanders blindly for years until he finally stumbles into Rapunzel, who apparently had been living "miserably" in the forest as a single mother of twins all this time. Her tears heal his eyes, and then they live happily ever after.

### 2. Cinderella

In Disney's version of this fairy tale, Cinderella is stuck living with her evil stepmother and stepsisters after her father dies, forced to be their servant. With the help of a fairy godmother, she manages to go to a ball one day and meet a handsome prince.

After the ball, the prince searches his kingdom for the mysterious beauty, his only clue being a glass slipper she left behind.

But when his entourage gets to Cinderella's house, the evil stepmother locks the girl up and prods Cinderella's stepsisters to get their feet into the shoe.

Now, here's how Disney wrote the ending: the sisters' meaty feet simply won't slide into the delicate slipper, Cinderella breaks free, proves that she's the mysterious girl and she and the prince get married.

In the Grimms' version, Cinderella leads a similarly dreadful life, constantly oppressed by her stepsisters, except for one troubling difference: her father is still alive and doesn't do anything to protect her from their torments.

Great guy.

And when the prince arrives at their house with the shoe, one stepsister wants the prince so badly that she cuts off her toe while the other sister slices off a piece of her heel to get into the slipper.

But the prince can't be fooled. And when the stepsisters defeatedly show up at Cinderella's wedding, two birds come and pluck the young ladies' eyes out. The end.

### 3. Snow White

In the Disney movie from 1937, a wicked queen feels threatened by Snow White's beauty and gives her a poisoned apple, putting a deathlike spell on her.

But a prince who has become infatuated with the young lady comes to her rescue and kisses her, freeing her from the curse.

In both the versions by Disney and the Grimm brothers, the evil queen is assigned a cruel fate: In the film, she falls off a cliff and greedy vultures follow her to pick at her dead body.

But in the Grimms' *Schneewittchen* - "Little Snow White" - the wicked lady has to suffer longer. She goes to Snow White's wedding and is forced to put on red-hot shoes and dance until she dies.

### 4. Sleeping Beauty

But even the Grimm brothers had a soft spot - it seems they couldn't quite stomach the original ending of the Sleeping Beauty story.

In their version, as well as the Disney movie, the princess falls asleep on a spell after pricking her finger with the spindle of a spinning wheel. Eventually, a prince manages to kiss her awake and free her from the curse.

Still, in the Grimm version it takes a whopping 100 years for the poor princess and her castle to be awoken - and most of the blokes who had tried to kiss her awake died in what was probably a slow, horrible death by getting stuck in the hedge of thorns that grew around the castle.

In Italian poet Giambattista Basile's original version, astrologers predict on the day of the girl's birth that she will be put in great danger by a splinter of flax. Her father bans all kinds of flax from the house, yet she still one day fiddles with a spinning wheel, runs a splinter of flax into her finger and falls dead on the ground.

Now, Basile's plot takes a very different trajectory: everyone believes Sleeping Beauty is dead and her father abandons the house in grief. Then a married king one day passes by and decides to enter the home. There he finds the young woman unconscious, and can't get her to wake up. At first he cries, but then he rapes her, leaves and doesn't think about it for a while.

After nine months, she somehow gives birth to a twin boy and girl. When they try to nurse from her, they end up sucking out the splinter of flax because they can't find her nipple, and she finally wakes up.

Eventually the rapist, necrophiliac king decides to wander back and look in on that woman he thought was dead, only to discover her alive and with the children. He explains what he did to her - which somehow Sleeping Beauty finds totally acceptable - and promises to bring the little family back to his kingdom. Mind you, where his wife lives.

After the jealous queen attempts to cook the children for the king to unwittingly eat, tries to burn Sleeping Beauty alive, and generally do horrible things, the king swoops in to cast his own wife into a fire and then marry Sleeping Beauty. What a lucky girl.

### 5. Little Red Riding Hood



The Grimm brothers' *Rotkäppchen* has made generations of school girls think twice before visiting their grannies.

In the tale, a wolf devours an old lady and when her granddaughter comes to visit, he tricks the girl and quickly swallows her too.

Luckily, there's a hunter nearby who cuts open the predator's tummy in his sleep, lets girl and granny out, and fills the animal's stomach with stones.

In his 1922 short movie based on the Grimms' story, Disney doesn't get quite as graphic.

There, a man instead of a wolf awaits Little Red Riding Hood at her grandmother's house, as the granny is out running errands.

When Little Red Riding Hood arrives, the man tries his luck with her, but a young guy in an airplane rescues the girl at the last second and the two of them fall in love.

## **6. Hansel und Gretel (aka Babes in the Woods)**

In Disney's *Babes in the Woods* (1932), Hansel and Gretel stumble upon a forest where they befriend a group of gnomes. Suddenly they are kidnapped by an old witch who wants to turn them into a spider and a rat.

At last, the gnomes defeat the witch and rescue the children.

But in the Grimm version, the kids don't just stumble upon a forest – their mother convinces the father to abandon the two children there, because there's a famine and the parents are too poor to provide for the whole family.

Left to fend for themselves, the kids meet a witch who takes them in. But instead of helping them, the wicked woman locks up the brother and spends days fattening him up so that she can devour him later.

At last, Gretel manages to free herself and her brother - but only by locking the witch in an oven and baking her to death.

But the story still ends on a dark note: when the children arrive home, their mother has died.

## **7. The Pied Piper from Hamelin**

Disney's *The Pied Piper* (1933) is almost exactly the same as the Grimms' story, but is likely based on the version by English poet and playwright Robert Browning, as they share very similar endings.

The tale goes that the town of Hamelin is plagued by rats, so that the Pied Piper is asked to lure the animals out into the wild with his mesmerizing pipe-playing.

But the town denies him the reward he was promised, and out of revenge the Piper strikes up another song leading the town's children into the mountains.

Now, if it was left up to the German brothers, that would be the end of the story - the children were never to be seen again.

But Disney couldn't stomach a tragic ending and let the Piper lead the kids into a land of joy.

## **8. The Princess and the Frog**

Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* (2009) differs from the Grimm original in just about every aspect – the film is set in New Orleans and revolves around a young woman who wants to open a restaurant.

One day a frog comes along and begs her to kiss him so that he can finally become a prince again - and she eventually gives in.

But in the Grimm story, the princess doesn't even have to get intimate with the slimy, little amphibian.

The frog harasses her to do favours for him - including that she allow him to sleep with her in her bed. This agitates her so much that she throws him against the wall - and voilà, he turns into a prince.

*By Max Bringmann*

The Local Europe AB  
Östgötagatan 12  
116 25 Stockholm  
Sweden

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 8th annual Armadillo Day a Texas-sized success

statesman.com

8th annual Armadillo Day a Texas-sized success <http://www.statesman.com/news/local/8th-annual-armadillo-day-texas-sized-success/rluodgafhK32YUr67CSxxJ/>



For the eighth year in a row on Feb. 2, Bee Cave Bob emerged from a tunnel and stuck his snout into the chilly air, predicting the climate both meteorological and political for the audience waiting with bated breath standing around his wood-and-wire enclosure.

The celebrity armadillo shyly wandered left, then wandered right, then wandered left again, then right again, as adults and children donning cowboy hats and western wear debated what his meanderings divined for the coming year. The hosts finally called it – according to Bob, spring is around the corner, and there will be a conservative political climate for the coming year. The audience whooped and cheered.

While the U.S. recognizes Feb. 2 as Groundhog Day, the celebration at the West Pole in Bee Cave represents a group of Texans not content to take the word of a northern marmot when it comes to notoriously unpredictable Texas weather. According to resident and cultural preservationist Terry Boothe, Texas' official small mammal, the Armadillo, is the only critter suited for the job.

"No red-blooded Texan is going to stand still and let a mangy groundhog predict our Texas weather," Boothe said before the gathering at the property he'd inherited from his family, himself standing on the steps of a refurbished saloon. "We sent Punxsutawney Phil a rather impolite letter telling him we'd no longer be paying any attention to anything he says."

Armadillo Day was initially Boothe's idea, and is organized every year by the satirical group, "Benevolent Knights of the Raccoon." The fraternal members wear a raccoon baculum on a string around their necks. The celebration, held at the West Pole on Boothe's property as recognized by the state legislature in 2007, boasted barbecue and live music hosted by Sun Radio DJ David Arnsberger.

"The essence of it all is rooted in Texas pride," Boothe said. "We like to put on a show for others."

© 2017 Cox Media Group

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



Search

---

[HOME](#) / [ODD NEWS](#)

# Colorado Department of Transportation unveils 9-foot tall grenade statue

By Daniel Uria | March 16, 2017 at 2:28 PM [Follow @oddnewsupi](#)

0 Comments

Leer en [español](#)

**Colorado Department of Transportation**

on Wednesday



In a crash, unbuckled passengers pose a serious risk to others in a vehicle. They can be as dangerous as a...well, the picture says it all. Start seeing unbuckled passengers as a danger in your vehicle. So don't be afraid to ask others to buckle up. This grenade sculpture, unveiled today at the CU Auraria Campus, is part of CDOT's Beware of the Beltless campaign. Look for the grenade around the Denver Metro area in the next couple months.

22

5

19

March 16 (UPI) -- A 9-foot tall statue of a grenade was erected at the University of Colorado to warn about the dangers of driving without a seatbelt.

The Colorado Department of Transportation [shared a photo](#) of the giant statue comparing the impact of an unbuckled driver to a grenade.

"In a crash, unbuckled passengers pose a serious risk to others in a vehicle," the department said. "They can be as dangerous as a...well, the picture says it all."

The statue was unveiled at the university's Auraria Campus and the CDOT said it would also be placed around the Denver Metro in the coming months as part of its "Beware of the Beltless campaign."

"This sculpture is bigger than life, and so is the issue," Safety Communications Manager for CDOT Sam Cole [told KUSA](#). "We need to change the way people think about beltless passengers."

Along with sending a message about the dangers of driving without a seatbelt, the CDOT hopes the statue will encourage drivers to ask others to buckle up.

**Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for more news from UPI.com**

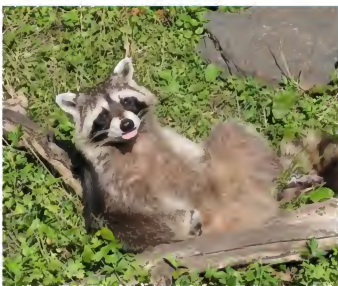
### Related UPI Stories

- [Moose tries to mate with metal statue in Colorado yard](#)
- [16-foot King Kong statue bursts into flames at movie premiere](#)
- [1,000 pound chicken statue stolen from North Carolina town](#)

[0 Comments](#)

<http://upi.com/6505182>

## LATEST HEADLINES



### Moscow petting zoo sues ad company over 'erotic' raccoon shoot

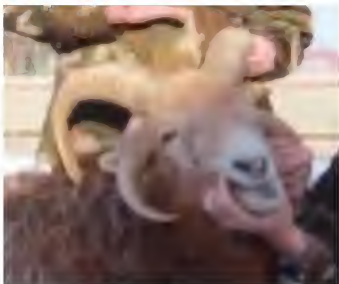
March 16 (UPI) -- A Moscow petting zoo is suing the advertising company that rented a raccoon, saying it was used in an "erotic" shoot and is now obsessed with women's breasts.



### Giant robot on flatbed trailer turns heads on highway

March 16 (UPI) -- A surprised driver on a Japanese highway captured video of an unusual spectacle -- a giant robot being transported on a flatbed truck.





## Chinese farmer's herd includes ram with four horns

March 16 (UPI) -- A Chinese farmer unveiled an animal with a highly unusual deformity -- a ram with an extra pair of horns.



## Berlin police seize cannon made for launching coconuts

March 16 (UPI) -- Berlin police announced they seized an artist's homemade cannon after a coconut launched by the device narrowly missed hitting a dog walker.



## 'Militant' anti-smoking monkey destroys tourist's cigarettes

March 16 (UPI) -- A "militant" monkey at an Indonesian sanctuary stole a tourist's pack of cigarettes and ripped the smokes to shreds while a visitor filmed.

### UPI Latest

## TRENDING STORIES

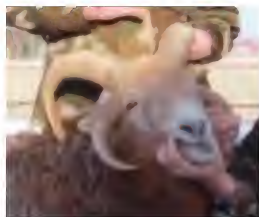
Cooler donated to Goodwill store contained \$24,000 worth of pot



'Militant' anti-smoking monkey destroys tourist's cigarettes



Chinese farmer's herd includes ram with four horns



Berlin police seize cannon made for launching coconuts



Ohio store's 70-pound, \$700 popcorn ball returned after theft



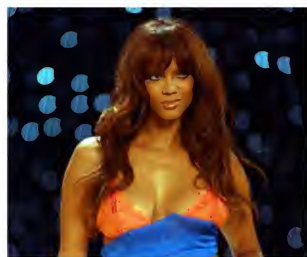
## PHOTOS



2017 SI Swimsuit issue launch



Inside the Chocolate Museum and Experience in New York



In photos: Tyra Banks through the years



Models take part in a beach volleyball tournament in Miami Beach



John Goodman  
honored with star  
on Hollywood  
Walk of Fame



In photos: Paul &  
Joe show at Paris  
Fashion Week

## EXPLORE UPI

Top News      Science News      Energy News  
Entertainment News      Health News      Defense News  
Odd News      News Photos      UPI Archives  
Sports News      World News      UPI Espanol  
U.S. News

## UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

United Press International is a leading provider of news, photos and information to millions of readers around the globe via UPI.com and its licensing services.

With a history of reliable reporting dating back to 1907, today's UPI is a credible source for the most important stories of the day, continually updated - a one-stop site for U.S. and world news, as well as entertainment, trends, science, health and stunning photography. UPI also provides insightful reports on key topics of geopolitical importance, including energy and security.

## STAY UP TO DATE

Your name

Email address

Subscribe

[Login](#)   [Contact](#)   [Advertise Online with UPI](#)   [Submit News Tips](#)   [Feedback](#)

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[TERMS OF USE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click:* [More info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Hide on this page](#)



**Pokin Around: The day a truck full of dynamite exploded on I-44**

Steve Pokin , SPOKIN@NEWS-LEADER.COM

news-leader.com

# SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

© 2017 www.news-leader.com. All rights reserved.



636234582897837011-Dynamite-photo-6.jpg

A deep crater on Interstate 44 marks the site of a tractor-trailer explosion that took the life of truck driver John Galt, 48, on Sept. 30, 1970. The crater covers most of the eastbound lanes just west of the Greene County N bridge. He was carrying a load of dynamite.(Photo: File photo)

**Correction:** This story originally misstated the direction of travel for the truck. It was headed eastbound towards Springfield.

Edwina Clingan will forever remember the night her house rattled back in September 1970. She was 23, living in a trailer in the Brookline area and was home

for the very first time with her infant son, who had been born prematurely.

Her husband was away, working. It was about 1:30 a.m. when ... ka-boom!

A wall of mirrors shattered. She was confused and frightened.

She grabbed her tiny baby, Darin, and then-and-there baptized him in the kitchen sink.

This was it, she thought: The victorious return of Jesus Christ.

"I thought it was the Rapture," she tells me. (Many Christians believe the Rapture is when followers of Christ are transported to heaven in the blink of an eye).

The explosion on Interstate 44 broke glass at the Heer's building in downtown Springfield 12 miles away.

But it wasn't the Rapture. What she felt was an explosion miles away of a tractor-trailer carrying 21 tons of dynamite. The truck was on Interstate 44, headed toward Springfield.

The driver was John A. Galt, an Oklahoma City man who had crossed a Teamsters picket line during a strike against Tri-State Motors of Joplin. He was blown to pieces.

Bobby Lee Shuler, a striking union truck driver with a .30-30 rifle, had pulled off the interstate onto an exit ramp to wait for two Tri-State trucks to enter his line of fire. He would later testify at his trial.



(Photo: File photo)

The first truck had a flatbed. He fired two shots at the grille to disable it. But it kept going.

The next truck was driven by Galt.

Shuler fired two shots into the grille. The third bullet struck the dynamite and the truck vaporized. In fact, windows were shattered on the Heer's building in downtown Springfield, 12 miles away. Shuler testified he did not mean to hit the trailer.

Court records show he had been drinking much of the day; that there were "Explosives" placards on the truck; and that as a Tri-State driver, he should have known that 50 percent of Tri-State's cargo was dynamite.

Galt, 48, was a father of four. Weeks earlier, he had been laid off from his job as an engineer with General Electric. He was making his maiden run for Tri-State. He was the only person killed or seriously injured.

The powerful blast knocked Shuler — the shooter — to the ground, tore his shirt, blew the rifle out of his hand and shattered the windshield of the car he was driving.

He and three others then tried to flee, but their car broke down. They gave themselves up when they saw airplanes circling and heard dogs barking.

Months ago, Edwina had asked me an Answer Man question about the explosion that she so vividly remembers: She wanted to know what happened to those responsible for shooting the truck.



(Photo: File photo)

Plastic shards from a huge neon sign litter the playground outside Stuckey's restaurant and gift shop. The sign was shattered at about 1:20 a.m. Sept. 30, 1970 when a tractor-trailer rig exploded on nearby Interstate 44.

Shuler was convicted of second-degree murder in 1971. The murder charge was based on the legal theory of felony-murder — meaning Shuler committed a felony when he recklessly shot at the truck and it became a murder once Galt was killed. Shuler's appeal was denied in 1972.

According to records of that appeal: "Shuler testified that he did not mean to do any bodily harm to anyone ... and he never considered the possibility that it might be carrying dynamite; and that he was wanting to disable the truck."

Gerald Lee Bowden was with Shuler that night. Bowden, also 29 at the time, was also a striking union truck driver.

According to court records, earlier that night Bowden had also fired the rifle at a Tri-State truck. Bowden was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

He was paroled in 1975 and discharged from supervision in 1978.

A third person was charged in connection with the crime, but I found no record of the specific charge. If she ever was convicted, she did not serve time within the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Shuler, sentenced to 99 years, was in prison eight years and paroled in 1979.

I do not know for sure if Shuler is alive or dead.

I did find an obituary for a "Bobby Lee Shuler" of the same age who was a retired truck driver. He died Feb. 4, 2010, in Kingsport, Tennessee.

I reached out to a family member listed in the obituary but did not hear back before deadline.

*These are the views of Steve Pokin, the News-Leader's columnist. Pokin has been at the paper five years and over the course of his career has covered just about everything — from courts and cops to features and fitness. He can be reached at 836-1253, [spokin@gannett.com](mailto:spokin@gannett.com), on Twitter @stevepokinNL or by mail at 651 N. Boonville, Springfield, MO 65806.*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 50-year-old 'message in a bottle' traced to Edinburgh sailor

scotsman.com



### SHÂN ROSS

Sunday 05 March 2017

The search for Scottish “donkeyman” who threw a hand-written message in a bottle into the North Sea gained world-wide attention after the note was found nearly 50 years later on a German beach.

Now it can be revealed that Jimmy Robertson, who worked in the boiler room on the MV Gosport, which had recently sailed from Leith, was a homesick sailor who put the message

in an empty bottle of lemonade made at a factory near his home in Edinburgh, which he had brought onboard for himself.

The search was sparked in January this year by Clint Buffington, a writer based in the US who writes the “Message in a Bottle Hunter” blog which aims to reunite people who throw messages in bottles out to sea, with those who find them.

Mr Robertson, 75, had written the message “this bottle was thrown over by ‘Donkeyman’ James Robertson, 72 Sleigh Drive, Edinburgh on 16-9-70” and put it in a bottle made by the Edinburgh soft drinks firm JAS Dunbar.

“Donkeyman” is the job title of someone who maintains ship boilers, often nicknamed “donkey boilers”.

The bottle was eventually found by Bernd Igwerks, a pensioner, on Norderney, one of the tiny East Frisian islands located off Germany’s North Sea coast.

Mr Robertson, who now lives in Larbert, Falkirk, said he was reading his newspaper when he suddenly realised the story was about himself.

“I saw my name but it was the word ‘Donkeyman’ that caught my eye,” he said.

Recalling the moments before he threw the bottle overboard, Mr Robertson, who had just finished a shift below decks in the ship’s engine room, said: “I was feeling pretty down. We had been sailing for a few days but I was missing home.

“I decided to stick a note in the bottle and fling it over the side. After that, I forgot all about it.

“It’s been almost 50 years – I never once thought I’d get a reply.”

Mr Robertson, whose first ship was the Queen Mary, had taken a few bottles of lemonade aboard ship as he was not keen on the drinking water provided for sailors. He now hopes to contact the finder of the bottle, Mr Igwerks.

Mr Buffington said that when Mr Robertson e-mailed him last month he discovered Mr Robertson had once been contacted by a Dutch woman who had found another bottle he had thrown overboard.

"He told me 'I once had a reply from a woman in Amsterdam. I went to her home while I was docked there but unfortunately she wasn't in and I never pursued it further'."

Mr Buffington, from Utah, also said while trying to track down Mr Robertson he had received many inquiries about the bottle itself.

"I was even contacted by Rona Dunbar Parry, descendent of James Dunbar, whose company made this very bottle," he said.

"She made a tribute site for her great-great-grandfather's company, complete with pictures of bottles they made."

---

© Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.

## Martial artist crushes world record 77 drink cans with his elbow

upi.com



Feb. 24 (UPI) -- A martial artist from Pakistan set a world record by crushing nearly 80 drink cans using his elbow.

Muhammad Rashid quickly delivered several mighty elbow strikes as he crushed a total of 77 full cans to set the Guinness World Record for "Most drink cans crushed with elbow in one minute."

He sent foamy liquid splashing into the crowd as he delivered a powerful strike to each individual can.

Rashid, a multiple world record holder, claimed his newest record in front of a large audience in Gemona, Italy during an event organized by Associazione Cons.erva.

He is also the founder and president of Pakistan Academy of Martial Arts and holds multiple martial arts related records including most nunchaku hits in one minute, most walnuts crushed by the hand in one minute, most walnuts crushed with elbow in one minute and most spins of a fire staff in one minute.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Scottsdale woman keeps 85-year-old cookie as family heirloom

SCOTTSDALE, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) -

azfamily.com

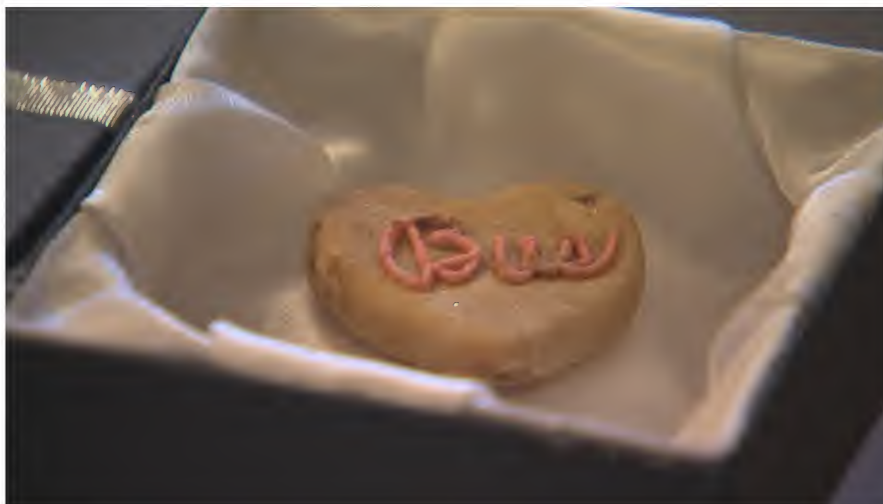
WATCH 3TV NEWS NOW



Woman has 85-year-old cookie

A woman has kept an unusual family heirloom: a really old cookie. (Sunday, February 19, 2017)

Posted: Feb 19, 2017 9:42 PM PST Updated: Feb 19, 2017 9:42 PM PST



Penny Rickhoff has an 85-year-old cookie. (Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

Penny Rickhoff has an 85-year-old cookie. (Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

She said she stores the cookie with her jewelry. (Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

The icing spells out Bus, which was her mother's boyfriend. (Source: 3TV/CBS 5)



She said she stores the cookie with her jewelry. (Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

Penny Rickhoff of Scottsdale has a different kind of lucky family heirloom.

It's kept inside a jewelry box and it has at least one similarity to a diamond.

"It's hard as a rock," Rickhoff said.

The item isn't a treasure but a treat.

"It's a cookie," Rickhoff said.



85 years ago, she said her mother's first love gave her the cookie.

She doesn't think it's strange.

"People back then, shoot, didn't have a lot of money," Rickhoff said. "So you bake a cookie, what else can you do?"

She said she stores the cookie with her jewelry.

The icing spells out Bus, which was her mother's boyfriend.

"She wanted to keep it as a memento," Rickhoff said.

She also kept the original Valentine card, again, from the 1930s.

It's a different kind of keepsake that is still sweet, in a way, 85 years later.

"It's a lucky cookie, as I say," Rickhoff said.

*Copyright 2017 KPHO/KTVK (KPHO Broadcasting Corporation). All rights reserved.*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Stratford Council asks High Court to declare plots of Midhirst land abandoned 101 years after owner dies

stuff.co.nz



Bureaucracy has finally caught up with the land of a former New Plymouth mayor, more than 100 years after he died.

On Tuesday, the Stratford District Council (SDC) decided to set in motion a legal process that could see a number of small plots around the tiny settlement of Midhirst declared abandoned.

SDC director corporate Services

Mark Weidenbohm said there was currently 8.49 hectares of land spread around the Taranaki village that was still under the name of Albert Cracroft Fookes, who died in 1916.

Fookes was born in England in 1839 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1861 where he fought in the Taranaki Land Wars with the militia.

After the wars he became a shop keeper in Waverley and in 1876 moved to New Plymouth where he became the town's second mayor.

In 1878 he made a deal with the Government to buy 5000 acres of land between the Manganui River and the Piakau Stream, which he subdivided into 100 acre blocks and built roads on.

As part of the agreement, Fookes also got 400 acres for himself, which he subdivided into residential lots to form the beginning of Midhirst, complete with roads radiating out from the centre.

However, while some roads were later handed over to the various councils that Midhirst was governed by over the years, other paper roads were never developed and are still under Fookes' name.

Over the years, the land had built up \$4,196.92 in outstanding rates and Weidenbohm said possible solutions to the issue had been in the pipeline for a while.

After trying to get in touch with any of Fookes descendants, the council decided to apply to the High Court to have the land declared as abandoned.

If approved, it would allow the council to sell the land by public auction or lease it by public tender.

That money would then be used to pay the rates, with any remaining funds going to the Public Trust who would hold it until any of Fookes' beneficiaries could be found.

However, Weidenbohm said the court could also recommend another course of action for the council, or recommend that things stayed as they were.

He said many of the neighbouring properties had assimilated the land over the years.



"They've fenced it and they're using it," he said.

If these plots were sold, there was a chance that some people would have to move their fences back onto their land.

Weidenbohm said while he hadn't talked to the council's solicitor about how long the court process would take, he estimated it would be between three and six months.

## - Stuff

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Used Peugeot goes on sale for £500,000 (this one is pretty special)

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk Sunday 19 Mar 2017 11:11 am



It's had several careful owners (Picture: SWNS)

**A second-hand Peugeot is on the market for half a million pounds.**

The vehicle is in good condition for its age, has no modifications or improvements – but doesn't have an MOT as its top speed is only 16mph.

Described as 'an amazing survivor from the dawn of motoring', the car is believed to be one of the oldest cars on British roads.

At 123 years old, it was made more than a decade before the oldest person in the UK was born.

Built in 1894, the Peugeot Type 5 still has all its original components. Classic car specialist Fiskens has given it an asking price of around £500,000.



(Picture: SWNS)

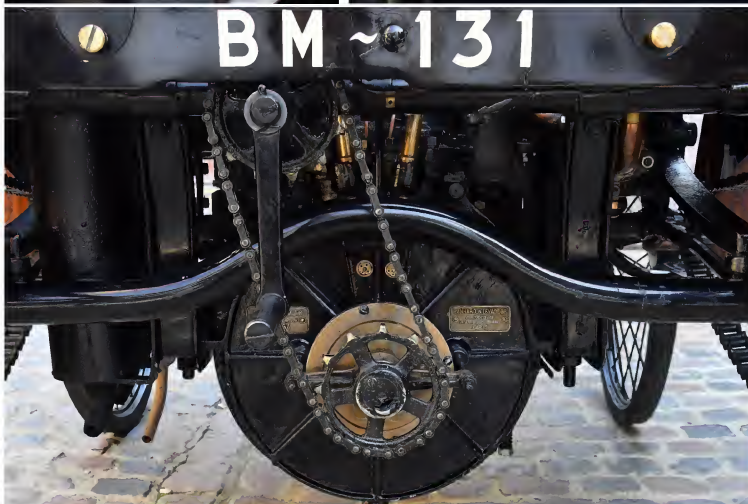
(Picture: SWNS)

(Picture: SWNS)

(Picture: SWNS)

Rory Henderson, from Fiskens said: 'It is a wonderful motorcar, with its original components which is very unusual for a car of its age.'

Plan to allow Brits to remain EU citizens is gaining support



'It is in good running order and I am sure it would have been a rocketship in its day.'

It also has a motorsport history, having been an entrant in the 1894 Paris to Rouen race – an event recognised as the world's first motor race.

The Peugeot, known as '164', has appeared at the Goodwood Festival of Speed on four occasions and led the prestigious 20 car strong 20-year celebration parade.

Fiskens has described the Peugeot as an 'original and fascinating' car which will provide a buyer with a 'rare opportunity to acquire a wonderful piece of

early motoring history'.

**What are you getting?**

**Despite its age, the car has no modifications or improvements.**





**Power comes from a rear mounted 1,026cc Daimler v-twin engine with hot-tube ignition.**

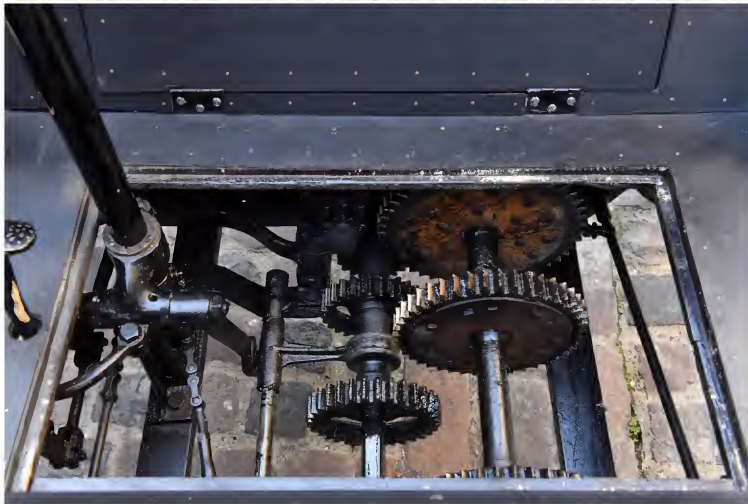
**The engine was made by Panhard-Levassor under license from the German Daimler company and then sold directly to Peugeot.**

**Records show the engine was commissioned on 25th June 1893 and delivered to Peugeot's Valentigney facility on 20th December 1893.**

**It only became a legal requirement to register a car in the UK in 1903 and the Peugeot didn't arrive on British shores until 1998.**

**So the DVLA does not have on record where the Peugeot ranks in terms of the UK's oldest running car.**

**However, it is thought the Peugeot could be the earliest car to come onto the open market in over a decade.**



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## 200-year-old bank note returned to museum decades after it was stolen

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.uk Monday 6 Mar 2017 3:16 pm



John Buckingham with the 200 year old bank note (Picture: SWNS)

Museum staff were shocked after they received a mysterious letter from the Caribbean that contained a 200-year-old bank that had been stolen from them in the 1980s.

The £1 note from Padstow Bank had been stuffed into a white envelope and sent to Padstow Museum, in Cornwall.

'I was very surprised. When I saw the envelope and the postmark I first thought, "who is writing to me from St Lucia?", said the museum's curator John Buckingham.

After checking his records he discovered the note had been pinched from the museum in June 1984.



The 200-year-old bank note was stolen in the 1980s (Picture: SWNS)

Mr Buckingham doesn't know who returned the note because there was no information attached.

He added: 'I have no idea who sent us the note back. There was no return address.

'I did wonder if the person who stole it sent it back and because there was no covering letter you can't help but think

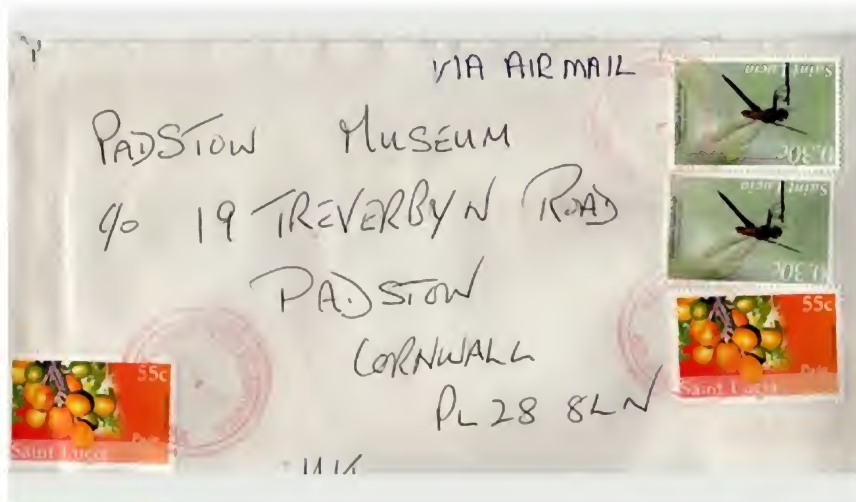
it, but that would be just speculation.'

The £1 note was issued by the Padstow Bank in 1819 and it would have been quite a lot of cash back then.

The note was in this envelope (Picture: SWNS)

Housemaids earned around £7 a year in the early 1800s and unskilled labourers would get even less.

The issuer of the note, Padstow Bank, was set up by Thomas Rawlings, who went on to create a powerful empire in north Cornwall.



The note will be available to view when Padstow Museum reopens at Easter.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## 200-year-old tavern moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut

yahoo.com

**AP** SOUTHBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — A 200-year-old tavern has been moved in its entirety from Massachusetts to Connecticut.

The MetroWest Daily News (<http://bit.ly/2mDzFKS> ) reports that hundreds of pieces of the nine-room Woodbury Tavern that had been stored in a barn behind Paul Bourdon's Southborough, Massachusetts, home were trucked about 100 miles to Guilford, Connecticut, on Saturday.

The federal-style building dates to 1808. In 2006, Bourdon bought and dismantled it, hoping to rebuild it for use as a home. But the project proved too costly and time-consuming.

Bill Butterly saw the tavern for sale online and jumped.

Butterly, who has experience with similar projects, plans to reconstruct the tavern and use it as a home on his property in Guilford. A plaque detailing the building's history will be placed outside.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Police bust house with over 300 stolen garden ornaments

stuff.co.nz

A garden full of pot plants, gnomes and pink flamingos may seem like a pretty picture, but it could also be a snapshot of the dark world of methamphetamine dealing.

That's what Hawke's Bay police faced on Tuesday when they came across a Flaxmere property with more than 300 garden ornaments scattered around it – all stolen, and all believed to be linked to meth.

Police went to the property on Tuesday to assist a power company cutting off the house which had racked up a \$10,000 power bill.



Tommy Livingston This gnome may find his way home after being stolen and sold, likely for meth.

Sergeant Cam Donnison said officers quickly realised some of the colourful items splashed around the property were ornaments which had been reported missing over the past few months.

Closer inspection revealed all of the items were probably stolen.

Donnison said there was a growing trend in Hawke's Bay of people stealing garden decorations then selling, or trading them, to get money for methamphetamine.



Tommy Livingston Some of the large pot plants which were seized from the property.

"It was obvious straight away they were stolen. We were aware of the issue. It seems to be the fashion at the moment. They are taking these items to hock off for methamphetamine – it's all meth driven," he said.

"We are probably looking at three to four hundred different ornaments. They go all through the house as well. These are probably the result of dozens and dozens of burglaries in the last month."

It was unclear whether the owner of the property had been receiving the gnomes and statues as a payment for meth, or if they had been buying them.

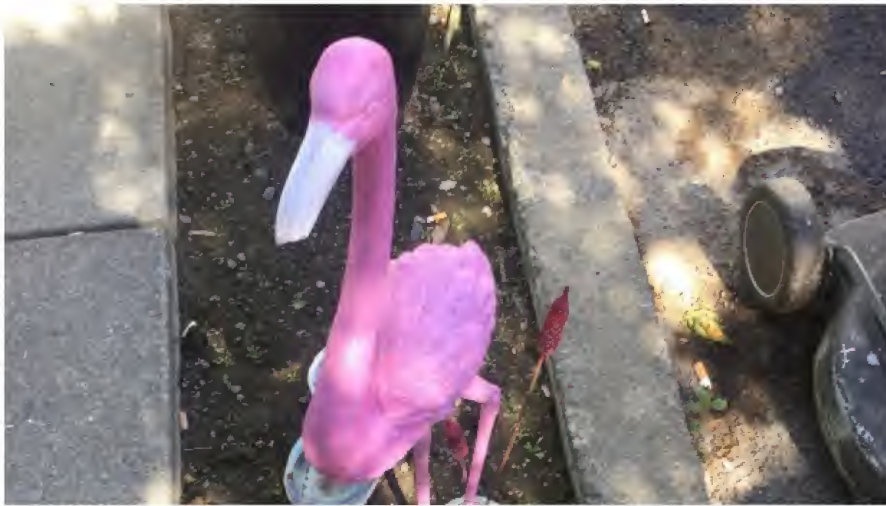
What was clear, Donnison said, was the person knew they were receiving stolen goods because they had painted some of the items to disguise them.

The massive find came less than a week after Hawke's Bay police appealed publicly for information into the growing problem of garden items being nicked.

"This is certainly organised and targeted burglaries to steal items which are worth quite a bit of money," he said.

"The perpetrators are stealing them to get rid of them easily, and quickly satisfy their methamphetamine addictions."

It was not uncommon for people to be getting upwards of \$300 for large pot plants, Donnison said.



*Tommy Livingston One of the pink flamingos dotted around the garden.*

"Some aren't worth a lot of money, but have been passed down by family members, so it's sad."

Donnison said the growing trend was strange.

"Certainly the trend of stealing garden ornaments and where they are going is quite unusual of late ... Usually the theft of ornaments is linked to drunken hijinx or young people having pranks."

Detectives would be reaching out to the public over the coming days to try and return the items to their rightful homes.

No charges had yet been laid in relation to the stolen items, but inquiries would be taking place, Donnison said.

**- Stuff**



*TOMMY LIVINGSTON More of the gnomes who were stolen from gardens across Hawke's Bay.*



*TOMMY LIVINGSTON The "gnominator" was among the recovered garden ornaments.*

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'A gift from God': Sierra Leone pastor finds 706-carat diamond then hands it over to government

| March 16, 2017 10:39 PM ET

[nationalpost.com](http://nationalpost.com)

NP



FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A pastor in Sierra Leone has discovered the largest uncut diamond found in more than four decades in this West African country and has turned it over to the government, saying he hopes it helps to boost recent development in his impoverished nation.

Pastor Emmanuel Momoh found the 706-carat alluvial diamond in Yakadu village in Sierra Leone's diamond-rich east, and it was presented to President Ernest Bai Koroma on Wednesday, said presidential spokesman

Abdulai Bayraytay.

The gem, a bit smaller than a hockey puck, is the second largest diamond found in Sierra Leone. In 1972, the 968.9-carat Star of Sierra Leone was found by miners and sold for about \$2.5 million.

It is believed to be the 13th-largest uncut diamond ever to be pulled from the ground, industry analysts say.

Momoh told The Associated Press that he turned in the diamond because he was touched by the development being undertaken in Kono District, where the gem was found. He cited road construction and improvements to electricity after almost 30 years of blackouts.

"I believe the government can do more, especially at a time when the country is undergoing some economic challenges," he said.



SLBC via AP The value of this 706-carat diamond found by a pastor in Sierra Leone has not yet been determined.

Sierra Leone's diamond wealth fuelled a decade-long civil war that ended in 2002. Despite its mineral wealth, the country remains one of the poorest in the world.

It was not immediately clear how the pastor came across the diamond.

The president praised Momoh "for not smuggling the diamond out of the country," and encouraged others to emulate the pastor's example. He promised the diamond would be sold to the highest bidder and whatever is due to the owner and government would be distributed accordingly.

"A gift from God, and it will be a terrible thing if anyone tries to do something criminal with it," the president said.



Spokesman Bayraytay said the diamond has not yet been valued and has been placed in the Bank of Sierra Leone.

The president has given “clear instruction to the Ministry of Mines that the evaluation, sale and distribution of the proceeds must be done in the most transparent manner,” he said.

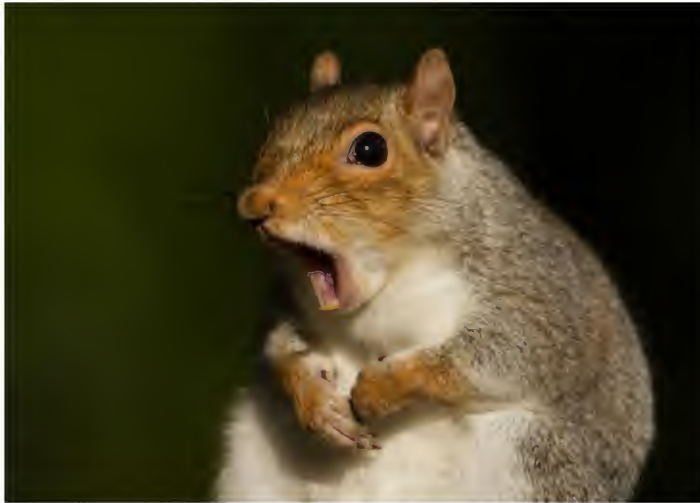
– *With files from The Daily Telegraph*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Wandering squirrel leaves 12,000 Canadians without power

upi.com



Thousands of people in Canada were left without power after a squirrel wandered into a local power plant. The power was restored within a few hours but the squirrel was killed in the incident. Photo by Giedrius/Shutterstock.com

Feb. 23 (UPI) -- A squirrel left thousands of Canadians without power after wandering into a local power plant.

Bluewater Power announced that the squirrel found its way into part of its Hydro One station and left 12,000 people in Sarnia, Ontario, without

electricity.

"I would say they were all back on by noon," Janice McMichael-Dennis, president and CEO of Bluewater Power told the Sarnia Observer.

McMichael-Dennis said outages caused by animals are not uncommon, but the scope of this particular outage was much larger than usual.

"You do, fairly often, have animal-related outages," she said. "It is rare for an animal to take down half a station. Normally they take down a feeder and you lose 1,000 customers."

McMichael-Dennis added that most power companies invest in "animal protection" to prevent such incidents, but they primarily focus on protecting the equipment.

"It doesn't protect the animal, it protects the system from the animal," she said.

Bluewater Power reported that while the power was returned, the squirrel did not survive the incident.

"This is confirmed...the squirrel is but a shell of his former self...literally..." the company said.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Mexican chef creates \$25,000 taco -- but no takers yet



AFPMarch 8, 2017



A chef at Mexico's Grand Velas Los Cabos Resort has created an over-the-top \$25,000 taco (AFP Photo/HO)

Mexico City (AFP) - Shrimp, caviar, truffle and gold flakes aren't standard ingredients in Mexico's popular tacos. But chef Juan Licerio Alcala uses them to create the world's most expensive taco at \$25,000.

No one has ordered one. Yet.

The handheld dish made of a corn or wheat tortilla folded around a filling is low-cost fare in Mexico.

Licerio, the chef at the Grand Velas Los Cabos Resort, a luxury vacation destination in Baja California, told AFP he decided to think outside the box.

"People are excited and a little surprised about how you can eat a taco for \$25,000 (497,000 pesos) when you can find one on the street for 10 pesos," he said.

"Then I explain the delicacy, the technique and the harmony that they will lift from the plate, and that it's worth it."

To make the over-the-top dish, the chef takes a corn tortilla speckled with 24 carat gold flakes and fills it with Kobe beef, shrimp, Almas Beluga caviar and black truffle Brie cheese.

The taco is dressed with a salsa based on Morita chiles and civet coffee, a pricey liquid made from the fermented droppings of a civet which has eaten the berries of a coffee plant.

For good measure, gold flakes are sprinkled on top.

A week after the outrageously pricey dish hit the menu, no one has ordered it, the chef admitted.

But he said many have shown interest, mostly US customers who like to "push the boundaries."

Ordering the world's most expensive taco has its own particular method. First, a customer has to put down a \$12,500 deposit and already be staying in the presidential suite.

The dish is presented in the middle of the desert encircled by motorcycles, or during a marriage proposal.

"We can adjust to the guest," Licerio said.

If money is no object, the chef has just the tippie to complement the taco: the luxury tequila Pasion Azteca, at \$150,000 a bottle.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## The discovery of a 5500-year-old cold case

By *strangerremains*

strangerremains.com



*Gebelein Man pictured on a plate published in By Nile and Tigris (1920) on page 360. Image credit: Budge, Ernest Alfred Wallis from Wikipedia.*

Gebelein Man pictured on a plate published in *By Nile and Tigris* (1920) on page 360. Image credit: Budge, Ernest Alfred Wallis from Wikipedia.

In 1896, Sir Wallis Budge, Keeper of the Egyptian Department at the British Museum at the turn of the 20th century, reportedly witnessed the exhumation of six mummies dated to the predynastic era, the period between the Neolithic and Dynastic periods of Ancient Egypt, near the ruins of the ancient Egyptian town of Gebelein.<sup>1,2</sup> The first of these bodies to be exhumed was a corpse that became known as Gebelein Man.

When Gebelein Man died, about 5500 years ago, his body was placed in the fetal position, wrapped in matting, and lowered in a grave filled with sand. Anthropologists know that the extraordinary condition of his corpse was due to the natural, desiccating properties of the hot, dry sand, not artificial preservation. Gebelein Man perished around 3500 BC in the predynastic period, and ancient Egyptians did not intentionally mummify their dead until around c. 2600-2100 BC in the late Old Kingdom.<sup>3</sup>

His corpse was so well-preserved that, not only were his facial features and hair still visible, but curators could see a wound about .75 inches (or 2 cm) wide on his left shoulder.<sup>4</sup> But it would be more than a hundred years before researchers would understand the grisly meaning of this injury.

Budge acquired all six of the mummies from the Gebelein ruins for the British Museum then returned to England. In 1901, Gebelein Man was exhibited in the museum's First Egyptian Room-the first mummy from the predynastic era to be viewed by the public. <sup>1</sup> He was eventually placed in a case with a reconstruction of the stone-line grave in which he was found.



*The mummified body of Gebelein Man in the British Museum. Image credit: Jack1956 via Wikipedia.*

The mummified body of Gebelein Man in the British Museum. Image credit: Jack1956 via Wikipedia.

In 2012, Dr. Daniel Antoine, Curator of Physical Anthropology at the British Museum, and his team brought Gebelein Man to Bupa Cromwell Hospital in London for high-resolution scans to create a virtual autopsy table. These detailed images, however, revealed a cold case thousands of years old.

Scans of his skeleton revealed that he was between 18 and 21 years old at the time of death.<sup>5</sup> When the wound under the mummy's shoulder blade was scanned, researchers could see that it was a penetrating wound that went through his left shoulder blade, ribs, and into his left lung. Antoine concluded that this was a fatal injury because there were no signs of healing around the

muscle and bone.<sup>5</sup> Also, the absence of defense wounds, injuries inflicted on a victim's hands and arms in an attempt to shield against an assault, implies that he died quickly during a surprise attack. Therefore, anthropologists from the British Museum determined his cause of death to be a stab wound to the back, and manner of death to be homicide.<sup>5,6</sup>

Renee Friedman and Daniel Antoine, both curators at the British Museum, deduced that the puncture wound was caused by a pointed instrument, either a projectile point or a dagger. They argue that a dagger made of copper or silver is the most likely culprit. <sup>4</sup>

Friedman and Antoine write that copper and silver blades 6-6.5 inches (15-16.5 cm) long and a maximum width of about 1.5-2 inches (4-5cm) were common at the time of Gebelein Man's murder. 4 When he was stabbed the blade was "plunged into his back for most of its length."4

Although anthropologists know how Gebelein Man died, they will never know who killed him or why.

## References Cited

1. Budge, W. (1920). By Nile and Tigris, a narrative of journeys in Egypt and Mesopotamia on behalf of the British museum between the years 1886 and 1913. Retrieved from: <https://archive.org/details/cu31924088412592>
2. Egypt, 8000-2000BC (N.D.). Retrieved from: <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/02/afe.html>
3. Egyptian mummies (2012). Retrieved from: [http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmnh/mummies.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/mummies.htm)
4. Friedman, R and Antoine, D. (6 December 2012). Murder and mayhem in Predynastic Egypt. Retrieved from: <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/2012/12/06/murder-and-mayhem-in-predynastic-egypt/>
5. Antoine, D. (16 November 2012). Virtual autopsy: discover how the ancient Egyptian Gebelein Man died. Retrieved from: <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/2012/11/16/virtual-autopsy-discover-how-the-ancient-egyptian-gebelein-man-died/>
6. Furness, H. (16 November 2012). Revealed: the secrets of a 5,500-year-old mummy murder mystery. Retrieved from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/9682654/Revealed-the-secrets-of-a-5500-year-old-mummy-murder-mystery.html>

## Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

```
/* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. */
.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }
.en-markup-crop-options div
div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }
```



# A Green Stranger or Angel or Fairy? - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

[strangehistory.net](http://strangehistory.net)

The outlandish, the anomalous and the curious from the last five thousand years

## A Green Stranger or Angel or Fairy? March 27, 2017

Author: Beach Combing | in : Modern , [trackback](#)

Being a true Relation of one Gabriel Harding, who coming home Drunk, struck his Wife a blow on the Breast and killed her out-right; then did he forswear the evil Deed which he knew himself guilty of. Likewise how a Stranger did come to the House clothed in Green, the people that were eye witness said it was an Angel. Likewise how the Stranger or Angel did give Sentence upon the man for killing of his Wife. Also how Satan did break the mans Neck that did forswear himself; and the Stranger or Angel did command Satan to hurt none else, and to vanish; which being done, there was a pleasant Harmony of Musick heard to sound: Then did the Stranger clothed in Green, take his leave of the people; whereof the chieftest in the Parish desired it might be put in Print, and have hereunto set their Hands.

To the Tune of, In Summer time.



Lots of supernatural creatures from the Green Knight to aliens are green: and the general, though by no means universal opinion of folklorists has been that green is for vegetation. Here is one reference from the late 17C\* that has confused Beach. We are in Westmorland in north-west England and this is from a one page ballad sheet.

Being a true relation of one Gabriel Harding, who coming home Drunk, struck his Wife a blow on the Breast and killed her out-right; then did he forswear the evil Deed which he knew himself guilty of. Likewise how a Stranger or Angel did give sentence upon the man for killing his Wife.

Likewise how the Stranger or Angel did give Sentence upon the man for the killing of his Wife. Also how Satan did break the mans neck that did forswear himself; and the Stranger or Angel did command Satan to hurt none else, and to vanish; which being done, there was a pleasant Harmony of Musick heard to sound: Then did the Stranger clothed in Green, take his leave of the people; whereof the chieftest in the Parish desired it might be put in Print, and have hereunto set their Hands.

Green is often in later times associated with fairies: usually fairies have green clothes, though sometimes they have green skin and even green hair. The Angel or 'Stranger' is also, like fairies, found with music: though music appears in some other supernatural accounts from England, the all too monotonous music of the spheres. The real meat is a long ballad that follows sung to the tune of 'in Summertime'! Beach includes a couple of the most important passages for the 'angel' and then the whole as a gif.

**B**y your leave good people then he said,  
A stranger with you have come talk;  
A dead woman I am come to see;  
Into the Room I pray Sir walk:  
And in the Room where as he stood,  
He was of such a comely grace  
Their hearts were all a ravished  
With the sweet complexion of his face:  
His eyes like to the stars did shine,  
He was clothed in a bright Gowne green;  
His cheeks was of a Crimson red  
Of such a man was seldom seen.  
Unto the people then he spake,  
Mark well these words which I shall say,  
For no Crowner you shall find,  
I'm Judge and Jury here this day:  
Bring hither the man that did the deed  
And boldly hath deny'd the same,  
I'll bring him into the room with speed  
To answer for his wicked deed with shame.  
Now come I twined man quoth he  
And thine before thy neighbours all,  
The body thou hast brought to murther,  
The soul into a deeper thall.  
Thy full delight was drunkenness,  
And lewd women, O cursed sin,  
Blasphemous Oathes, and Curses vile  
A long time thou hast wallowed in:

**The Devil then he banished  
Quite from the people in the Hall,  
Which made the people much amazed,  
For no one had no hurt at all.  
Then straight a pleasant melody  
Of musick sweet was heard to sound,  
It ravished the hearts of those that stood by  
So sweet the musick did abound.  
Now quoth this gallant man in green,  
With you I can no longer stay,  
My love I leave, my leave I take,  
The time is come I must away.  
Be sure to love each other well,  
Keep in your breast what I do say,  
It is the way to go to Heaven  
When you shall rise at Judgement Day.  
The people to their homes did go  
Which had this mighty wonder seen,  
And said it was an Angel sure,  
What thus was clothed all in green.**

**'Strange News from WESTMORELAND.**

Being a true Relation of one Gabriel Harding, who coming home Drunk, struck his Wife a blow on the Breast and killed her out-right; then did he forswear the evil Deed which he knew himself guilty of. Likewise how a Stranger did come to the House clothed in Green, the people that were eye witness said it was an Angel. Likewise how the Stranger or Angel did give Sentence upon the man for killing of his Wife. Also how Satan did break the mans Neck that did forswear himself; and the Stranger or Angel did command Satan to hurt none else, and to vanish; which being done, there was a pleasant Harmony of Musick heard to sound: Then did the Stranger clothed in Green, take his leave of the people; whereof the chieftest in the Parish desired it might be put in Print, and have hereunto set their Hands.

To the Tune of, In Summer time.

**The Social Play, or the same Tune.**

Being a true Relation of one Gabriel Harding, who coming home Drunk, struck his Wife a blow on the Breast and killed her out-right; then did he forswear the evil Deed which he knew himself guilty of. Likewise how a Stranger did come to the House clothed in Green, the people that were eye witness said it was an Angel. Likewise how the Stranger or Angel did give Sentence upon the man for killing of his Wife. Also how Satan did break the mans Neck that did forswear himself; and the Stranger or Angel did command Satan to hurt none else, and to vanish; which being done, there was a pleasant Harmony of Musick heard to sound: Then did the Stranger clothed in Green, take his leave of the people; whereof the chieftest in the Parish desired it might be put in Print, and have hereunto set their Hands.

London, Printed for G. Andrews, at the White Lion near Tyne Court.

So why is the angel green? Louise Yeoman, a fine Scottish writer, who often strays into



supernatural lands, in her excellent 'Archie's Invisible Worlds Discovered – spirituality, madness and the Johnston of Wariston family' makes reference to early modern visions from Scotland: 'peopled by devils, witches, angels, boys *in green clothing*, men up to their armpits in blood waving the covenant'. What are these 'boys in green clothing'? It goes without saying that Westmorland may have been English in this period, it had not been Scottish since the eleventh century. But culturally it had far more in common with Lowland Scotland than with London.

**Any help with the green stranger:** drbeachcombing At yahoo DOT com

\*This is a guess, I can't find any clue to the date.

- © 2017 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Abortion Reversal Bill: Indiana House Rejects Science

indypolitics.org



Abdul Hakim-Shabazz — March 2, 2017

### Elizabeth Ferries-Rowe MD, FACOG

Indiana HB 1128 was passed by a vote of 54-41 in the Indiana House on Feb. 27, 2017, and has been sent to the Senate where it is currently in the Judiciary committee. In part, this bill addresses medical abortion – a procedure available in the first seven weeks of pregnancy in which a patient receives two medications 48 hours apart to induce abortion. Should a patient who has taken the first medication then choose to carry the pregnancy, their caregiver would withhold the second medication. One small case series (seven patients) speculated that administering progesterone, in addition to withholding the second medication, may “reverse” the abortion (i.e. increase the chance of pregnancy continuing). A subsequent review, however, concluded that “evidence is insufficient to determine whether treatment with progesterone after mifepristone results in a higher proportion of continuing pregnancies compared to expectant management.”

Published science does not support that this treatment works. Despite this, HB 1128 requires abortion providers to give patients information regarding progesterone therapy to “reverse” abortion. Untrained elected officials are prescribing medical counseling which doctors must provide, and requiring this counseling to include referrals for medically unproven therapies.

HB1128’s merits were colored by the testimony of two Indiana physicians who report having used progesterone to “reverse” abortions in 300 patients, but these physicians’ claims remain unpublished and cannot be reviewed for scientific merit. We can’t review the criteria for receiving this treatment, or protocols for administration. We don’t know what other factors in the patients’ health impacted the results. We don’t know the total number of women who received the therapy—only those whose pregnancies were sustained, so we can’t calculate a success rate. Without information on adverse results, we can’t assess its safety. Without an objective review of their intervention, and because published data is weak, it is premature to require all providers to counsel patients about this unproven intervention.

Which brings me to a fundamental contradiction in the bill:

The full House sent the original version of the bill back to committee the week before to address various concerns, including the lack of scientific merit. The revised bill “fixed” this concern by including the following language: *“No scientifically validated medical study confirms that an abortion may be reversed after taking abortion inducing drugs.”* (sec 4.2.K.iii) Contrast this to the following

language in the same bill, which specifies that pre-treatment counseling must include “*objective scientific information of the risks and alternatives to the procedure or the use of an abortion inducing drug*” (sec 4.1.D).

The majority of House members were convinced scientifically objective information was important – except for “abortion reversals”, in which case non-scientific counseling is mandatory. The contradiction is puzzling; the disregard for science is disheartening; and the legal requirement that providers include medically unproven therapies when counseling patients is dangerous.

The willingness of the House to support a bill based on this type of pseudoscience is a direct result of a culture that views expertise as elitism, rather than as a valuable tool to advance the health and well-being of humankind. The progress of this bill through the legislative process is a microcosm of an environment that is skeptical of education and investigation, preferring to rely on emotional appeal and unproven data that confirms pre-existing opinions. In the case of legislation of medical care, the implications are frightening. Can you continue to trust your doctors to provide medically sound advice – or will you worry they are parroting unproven theories at the mandate of the government? Unless we successfully advocate for systematic investigation, peer review, and a minimum of scientific literacy for everyone, this is just the beginning. Today, that advocacy starts with the next step for the bill – your Indiana State Senators.

***Elizabeth Ferries-Rowe*** is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and a leading health care professional in Indianapolis with a degree in medical ethics.

© 2015 IndyPolitics.Org. Handcrafted by nallenscott

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Anti-Putin activist Alexei Navalny dyed green in bizarre liquid attack

By Record Reporter 15:50, 21 MAR 2017 Updated 16:43, 21 MAR 2017 News

[dailyrecord.co.uk](http://dailyrecord.co.uk)

### Anti-Putin activist Alexei Navalny dyed green in bizarre liquid attack

**The opposition leader's face is stained bright green after he was doused in antiseptic liquid during a rally.**

An anti-Putin activist was doused in bright green liquid by an unknown assailant during a rally.

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was campaigning in the Siberian city of Barnaul when his 'attacker' reportedly walked up and flung the liquid at him.

In a post on Facebook, Navalny told how he initially feared an acid attack but was bemused to discover he'd had antiseptic poured over him.



The green liquid, common in Russia, is harmless but stains skin for days.

So the campaigner did what politicians do: turn the incident into an opportunity.

Mr Navalny tweeted: "I will be opening a headquarters in Barnaul as if I am from the film The Mask! Cool. Even my teeth are green!"

The politician added: "This is a strange presumption on the Kremlin's part: if they pour zelyonka over me, I will stop campaigning and organising rallies.

"Maybe they thought I would stop recording videos with a green face. But I'll do more, because more people will watch."



The opposition leader's supporters have even joined in, posting photos of themselves with green faces.

Navalny is currently travelling around Russia opening headquarters and campaigning to stand in the 2018 presidential elections.

A criminal conviction for fraud officially bars him from running, but supporters say the charges are politically motivated.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## 'Affordable Underground Furniture': D.I.Y. Coffin Clubs Catch On in New Zealand

nytimes.com

**The New York Times** By MICHELLE INNIS FEB. 25, 2017



Members of the Hawke's Bay D.I.Y. Coffin Club meet with friends each Tuesday at a disused sports center to build coffins either for personal use or for charity. Credit Lottie Hedley for The New York Times

SYDNEY, Australia — Roger Terry and his wife, Grace, have little interest in quilting, fishing or book clubs. Instead, they meet with other retired friends each Tuesday at a disused sports center to build coffins, a hobby that has gathered followers across New Zealand.

"We have a heap of fun," said Grace Terry, 77, a former nurse in Hawke's Bay, on the North Island of New Zealand. "I've seen people come alive making their own coffins."

Mrs. Terry's own coffin, painted mauve and decorated with deep purple hydrangea blooms, sits in the couple's home, waiting to

be lined.

Mr. Terry, chairman of the Hawke's Bay D.I.Y. Coffin Club and a former fiberglass molding specialist, said the club, established in 2013, had 120 members. The oldest is 94, with mid-70s being the average.



Rachael Shaw, 61, with the personalized coffin she was building. Credit Lottie Hedley for The New York Times

"It gives us old fellas something of interest, something to do," he said. "But it also serves a purpose."

The country's first coffin club was established in 2010 by a palliative care nurse, Katie Williams, in a makeshift workshop in her yard in Rotorua, also on the North Island.

"It grew from there," said the treasurer of the Kiwi Coffin Club Rotorua, Joanne La Grouw, 66, who decorated her mother's coffin, including the beading inside. The club's motto is "fine and affordable underground furniture."

The caskets are inscribed with the club's initials, K.C.C., and are built to meet national standards: Each has a waterproof lining and is strong enough to hold a body.

The coffins are made from particleboard kits and are shaped like traditional caskets or as rectangles.

They can also double as aboveground furniture at home, disguised with cushions or blankets, until it is time for their primary purpose.





*The chairman of the Hawke's Bay D.I.Y. Coffin Club, Roger Terry, left, and Phil Thompson moving a finished coffin. Mr. Terry said the club had 120 members, with mid-70s being the average age. Credit Lottie Hedley for The New York Times*

"We like to say it is only a box until you put someone in it," said Ms. La Grouw, whose mother died at 94 last year.

The coffin kits cost about \$170, significantly less than what an undertaker would charge for a coffin of similar quality. Club membership in Rotorua is about \$7 a year and \$17 in Hawke's Bay.

Mrs. Terry said that once people finish creating their own coffins at the club, they often build others for charity, or return to help other members. "It's very social," she said.

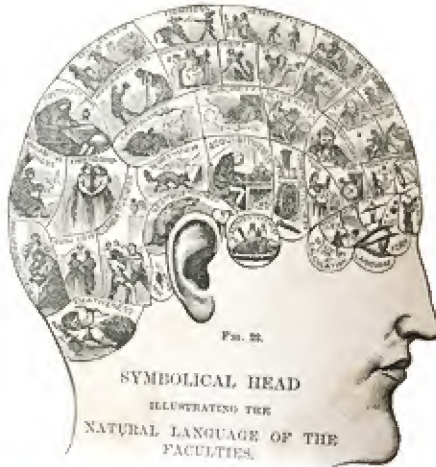
A version of this article appears in print on February 26, 2017, on Page A4 of the New York edition with the headline: Building Coffins Catches On in New Zealand. [Order Reprints](#)| [Today's Paper](#)|[Subscribe](#)

- © 2017The New York Times Company

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*





# WEIRD HISTORIAN

Born in Calcutta, India, Alice Bounds had elbows where her wrists should have been and knees taking the place of ankles. Her unusual joint structure allowed her to

walk on all fours.

In 1880, Bounds' talented gait brought her halfway around the world to the Dreamland Circus Sideshow at Coney Island. There, she became known as the She-Bear and Ursa the Bear Girl. A fur coat helped exaggerate her condition and, of course, helped her live up to her stage names.

Bounds continued performing through the first two decades following the turn of the century.

*This article was originally published on [AmericanSideshow.blogspot.com](http://AmericanSideshow.blogspot.com) and was written for the book, *American Sideshow*, but cut before publication.*

Weird Historian Copyright © 2017.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## All About Lorgnettes: 1886-7, 1923

wordpress.com

<https://mrsdaffodildigresses.wordpress.com/2017/03/22/all-about-lorgnettes-1886-7-1923/>

### Mrs Daffodil Digresses

#### A blog about costume, history, and social ephemera



Guilloche enamel and diamond lorgnette c. 1910

<http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/22468/lot/64/>

#### ALL ABOUT LORGNETTES

Their use Enables a Lady to Display Her Bracelets and Shapely Arm.

Merely a Graceful Affectation Quite as Often Intended for Ornament as Use.

Opera Glasses in Rich and Beautiful Designs

Celebrated Makers and Their Productions.

#### TWO LOVELY BLACK EYES

An opera without a pair of glasses is like pudding without sauce, salad without dressing, or a marriage without a wedding. Even the baldies in the first three rows enjoy the ballet and premiers better when fortified with a Lemaire or Verdi, and the lovers of music get double pleasure running over the audience between the acts with a seventeen line lens. A society woman would no more think of attending a play or opera without a pair of glasses than of dispensing with her fan or gloves. She may not use it much, but must have it to toy with if nothing more, for it helps her to display her suede and bracelets and is a decided aid to grace, as the bouquet may be wet enough to soil the gloves and the fan too frail for convenience. Let her forget the pretty pearl bound pebbles, and she would call the gentleman in her party "monster!" and cut him dead the next day if he neglected to hire a pair from the opera-glass boy.



Faberge lorgnette, c. 1910

<http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2012/russian-art-n08844/lot.377.html>

There is nothing newer than the lorgnette which has been the rage among fashionable ladies for a couple of years. As the cut shows, the lorgnette is nothing more than a pair of spectacles attached to a handsomely carved stick. It is a mistaken idea to think that the lorgnette is intended as a n opera-glass, properly focused and polished for long distances. It is merely a graceful affectation, quite as often intended for ornament as use. Ladies like them because they are a pretty and pleasing oddity, designed to exhibit a beautiful hand, a well-turned wrist, or

nicely-modeled arm. Ladies who have old or weak eyes often select the lorgnette as a dress-

spectacle, suspending them from a chatelaine and using them at church, over hymnal or litany, while calling, shopping, or promenading, to read the casual card, sign or address, and to make change with, in which case the glass is fitted to the eye by an oculist and framed in shell or metal by the jeweler.



Among the fashionables the fad is simply a foil to the eye-glass solitaire, and considered very English, don't you know? For this stylish use the holes are set with clear white glass that has no more magnifying influence than a window-pane. These harmless pebbles are found in all styles of sticks. Tortoise is the most popular and varies in price from \$12 to \$20, according to the amount of work on the shell; gold-mounted lorgnettes in the Roman metal range from \$40 to \$60, and the silver sticks, in repousse, are worth \$60, while double that figure is charged for enamelling. There is no mistake about it, these lorgnettes are "sweet things." Put in the hand of a pretty woman at an opera or an art gallery the looker on is lost in admiration, and sees nothing

but the artful creature—her dainty arms, upturned eyes, graceful throat, and charmingly posed head. One look from these long-handled glasses will wither a saucy clerk, a presumptuous dude, or an insolent servant. You can argue with them; flirt, play, read or paint with them; laugh or sing with them,, and be doubly gracious, charming, and effective.



There are widows and belles in society who wear the lorgnette without any glasses, and succeed in doing double the mischief they could otherwise accomplish. It may interest some of the sleepy dames on the West Side and up along the Evanston shore to know that the lorgnette is as common as the vinaigrette in the East. At Tuxedo the men have eye glasses, and the ladies stare back at them through silver and shell lorgnettes. A few Newport belles wear an eye glass even to the dance, but the majority affect the carved stick. In season the fat dowagers and the slim spinsters with quince-color complexions never dream of taking the red rock or vichy waters of Saratoga without putting up their glasses.



Mother of pearl opera glasses, French, 19th c.

<http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/permanent/273006.html?mulR=1250527814|40>



In opera glasses there are styles by the dozen from which to select. Pearl mountings are passé. The smoked pearl which has enjoyed such splendid popularity is less stylish than the pure white mother of pearl, mounted throughout—casing, slide, bridge and rim; and neither is comparable to the silver bound glass, the Prince of Wales' choice. The design shown above represents one of the finest Bordou pebbles mounted in sterling silver, exquisitely carved from an Alhambra frieze. The glass is worth \$62, but there are cheaper goods that will give just as good satisfaction. After the silver comes the brass glass, treated with black lacquer and bound in seal leather, which may be had as low as \$4. There is a Bosch glass for that price, which an emperor might rejoice to own. Aluminium glasses, mounted in alligator or snake skin, sell at \$25 and are just the thing for gentlemen, and very popular with the Eastern fellows. The charm of these leather and aluminium glasses is their extreme lightness. Actually you can float a pair in fresh water.



French  
enamel  
opera  
glasses c.  
1900

<http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20172/lot/92/>

The most artistic glasses are mounted in porcelain and gold, and delicately enameled to represent a sylvan or ball-room scene. A glass of this kind may be bought for \$22, because there is little call for the style just now.

Pocket glasses in black leather are worth \$18, and those in mother of pearl sell for \$15. They are distinctly a club man's luxury, to be carried in the vest pocket to look at pretty women in the surf, across the street, at the piano, or gliding round the rink.

Miniature Bardou telescope, Second quarter of the 19th century.



<http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/21932/lot/152/>

And now a word about the different brands. The Bardou & Sons is the best glass ever put upon the market, and the very one that buyers are most likely to know nothing about, for the reason that the

bulk of the trade is controlled by Berlin and Vienna dealers, only a few lenses getting into American markets. The glasses are very powerful, being so carefully centered and highly polished as to strain the eyes after a brief usage. In their construction the manufacturers designed them for quick, short sights, and made no provision for those curious theater-goers who surfeit the eye, and exhaust the subject by a continuous focus. They are the highest-priced glasses in trade, but a poor one is never permitted to leave the factory.



The next best, but the most popular glass, is the Lemaire, of Paris. There are two qualities, and the buyer needs to have his wits about him unless he is amiable enough to take what is offered, pay his money, and smile

away.

It is a waste of money to buy a glass of less than thirteen lines, as the field is too small. For that reason vest-pocket styles are rarely satisfactory, because it is impossible to get the proper power in so small a glass. Trying to cover a stage or beach with a lens having the surface of a silver dime is as difficult as viewing a multitude through a key-hole.

The great objection to the aluminium is its yielding quality, the slightest bend or twist being sufficient to double or blur the vision. This defect may be produced by sitting on the glass or by a slight blow, and only an oculist will be able to reset or rebend the frame. With the brass mounting accidents of this sort never occur.

*Daily Inter Ocean* [Chicago IL] 20 November 1887: p. 21

Mrs Daffodil's *Aide-memoire*: Mrs Daffodil previously reported on spirit-filled opera glasses, carried by persons of irregular habits who should have been refused admission at the door.

Lorgnettes were seen as an affectation when they first became popular.

## A FASHIONABLE FOLLY.

### Long-Handled Eye Glasses and the Dudines Who Buy and Use Them.

"Will you kindly let me see some of your tortoise shell lorgnettes?" languidly inquired a fashionably dressed young lady the other day as she stood before the counter in a leading optician's store on Chestnut street and looked the clerk steadily in the eye.

"Beg pardon, do you mean opera glasses or eye glasses?" asked the clerk.

"Eye glasses."

Thereupon the clerk produced a large box in which was an assortment of the most absurd specimens of the opticians handiwork ever sold for failing eyesight. They were lorgnette eye-glasses, so-called because like the ordinary opera or field glasses, they have to be continually held to the eyes while in use. The eyeglass part is shaped like a pair of spectacles except that instead of two bows to go back over the ears there is a long handle to be held in the hand. Ultra-fashionable people have decided that these are the proper things and in consequence spectacles double eye glasses and even the single eye-glass or “quiz” have been relegated to the use of the vulgar herd. The young lady mentioned bought one of the “lorgnettes,” and went out of the store after paying a ten dollar bill for her purchase.

“Do you sell many of those things?” was asked of the optician.

“Quantities,” he answered, “and the sale of them is constantly increasing. The ‘lorgnettes were introduced from England about two years ago, but it is only lately that there has been anything of a fashionable craze for them. They are the most ridiculous thing in the way of eye-glasses I ever saw. They are clumsy, and one has to hold them up to the eyes whenever they are used, which becomes quite tiresome in time. I sell them to young ladies mostly although their mothers buy them too. They hold them to their eyes with a Lady Clara Vere de Vere air and try to look haughty and well-bred. My observation is that only women with very shallow brain pans use lorgnettes. Many order plain glasses in them and extra-long handles. The longer the handle the more stunning the effect and the shallower the brain...At home the lorgnette users are glad enough to wear spectacles or eye glasses which further goes to prove that the newfangled arrangement is only another of Dame Fashion’s freaks.” *Cincinnati [OH] Commercial Tribune* 10 November 1886: p. 6



The lorgnette fad returned, along with a renewed enthusiasm for fans, in the 1920s.

#### OLD FASHION LORGNETTE NEW CRAZE IN LONDON

London, July 28. There seems to be craze for the old-fashioned lorgnette among young women in London at present. It has, in the last few weeks, becoming increasingly rare for a girl to wear spectacles, even of horn, in the ball-room. The modern short-sighted beauty prefers the lorgnette of her grandmother, which she can fold and put away in her vanity bag or hang fanwise over the arm of her partner while she is dancing.

Dancing in the ballroom of the Savoy Hotel last night were several American women how had adopted the lorgnette, among them Miss Mabel Forve of Los Angeles, using one which had square eye pieces and a microscopic handle, one inch in length. Mrs. James Louis of Brooklyn used a lorgnette which had a handle no less than two feet in length; the eye pieces were oblong. Mrs. M.A. Monohan of Chicago had a pair which were heavily encrusted with precious stones and must have been worth a small fortune. *Dallas [TX] Morning News* 29 July 1923: p. 4

One would think that a handle two feet in length was a reflection of its user’s eccentricity, but perhaps the lady, like so many persons in middle age, needed to hold her lenses at some distance from the object of inspection.



Mrs Daffodil invites you to join her on the curiously named “,” where you will find a feast of fashion hints, fads and fancies, and historical anecdotes

You may read about a sentimental succubus, a vengeful seamstress’s ghost, Victorian mourning gone horribly wrong, and, of course, Mrs Daffodil’s efficient tidying up after a distasteful decapitation in A Spot of Bother: Four Macabre Tales.

This entry was posted in Aristocracy, Fads, Fashion, Fashion Accessories, History 1910-1930, News and Announcements, Victorian and tagged Bardou, fashionable accessories, Lemaire, lorgnettes, opera glasses, Victorian fads, Victorian lorgnettes, Victorian opera glasses on March 22, 2017 .

### 3 thoughts on “All About Lorgnettes: 1886-7, 1923”

1.

**davekingsbury** March 22, 2017 at 11:47 am

There is also the strong suggestion ‘I have chosen to look at you and not the other way around’ implied. Perhaps they’d suit the new US president ...

1.

**chriswoodyard** Post author March 22, 2017 at 12:36 pm

Lorgnettes seem to have always been the preferred accessory for the Haughty. Now, of course, the Haughty have sun-glasses that cost more than a London flat.... The US President does seem to have the requisite squinting-down-one’s-nose expression much of the time. Perhaps an oculist or a good lorgnette might help.

1.

**davekingsbury** March 22, 2017 at 9:14 pm

I normally complete the supercilious look with an ear-trumpet ... no pun intended!

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Altar in Mexico town hides illegal fuel tap

yahoo.com

**AP** MEXICO CITY (AP) — Altars to the Virgin of Guadalupe are ubiquitous at businesses across Mexico. Now federal police say one has even been used in a gasoline smuggling racket in the central state of Puebla.

Police said Tuesday that a trail of fuel leaking into the street in the town of San Martin Texmelucan led them into a lot where they found an altar to Mexico's patron saint with an unusual red hose protruding from it.

As they approached, a man carrying a gun got out of a vehicle and tried to flee. Police say they eventually caught him, and five other people accused of filling up from the Virgin's tap.

Thieves drill into thousands of pipelines across Mexico each year to steal fuel, creating heavy losses for the state-owned oil company Pemex.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man claims he's the rightful King of England - and takes an ad out to 'prove' it

By Zahra Mulroy 18:31, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 18:36, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### American man claims he's the rightful King of England - and has taken an ad out to 'prove' it

#### All hail King Allan V. Evans?



Not everyone loves the Royal family .

Some people strongly argue they are a feudal relic and stale reminder of the antiquated 'born to rule' mentality.

However, whether you love them, loathe them or feel indifferently to them, it would probably be quite fun to be royal.

After all, the work hours are flexible and the money is good.

One man in the US certainly seems to agree, and rather than finding an opportunity to marry into the Royal family, he's gone one better and is staking his claim to the throne.

**A man who says he is Allan V. Evans from Colorado in the United States is claiming to be a descendant of a royal Welsh line from the 3rd Century.**

**He's even taken an ad out in The Times.**

Thank you to David Mapstone for noticing this and tweeting about it.

**Public Notices**

COMES NOW, Allan V. Evans, resident of Colorado U.S.A., who is a direct descendant of an unbroken primogeniture line legally documented since the 3rd century in Great Britain and registered in the Royal College of Arms, direct descendant of Canute the Great who was the founder of Kingdom of Wales then known as the Kingdom of Gwynedd having married the Princess of Powys, whose direct primogeniture descendant was Cilman Droed Ddu being the founder of the 4th Royal Tribe of Wales who was the King of Wales and the King of the Isle of Man and father to his eldest son Lleuon "Bancor" (whose second eldest son was Walter of Scotland who founded the House of Stuart) who married Nant of Scotland, and descended in an unbroken primogeniture line from Lleuon down through the centuries to John Evans Sr. of Aberffraw Parish, Anglesey, who was politically assassinated and was the last known King of Wales being Lord over the Prince of Gwynedd and all the Princes of Wales, and of the Royal Houses of Lloyd, Tudor, and Stuart and descended in an unbroken primogeniture line in America:

HEREBY GIVES LEGAL NOTICE, to all his relatives, Welshman, Scots, Manx, all Britons and any and all interested parties and persons, that in (30) thirty days' time, that the said Allan V. Evans shall claim his royal historic estate which is a conglomerate of about (17) historic estates of various families including the Evans family, and is commonly named as the "Bulleley Estate" after Thomas James Warren 7th Viscount Bulkeley who died in 1822. That the said Allan V. Evans shall claim any and all said Estate lands, assets, peerage titles, armorial bearings, Royal Titles, and the Royal Title and Crown of Wales; And shall further pursue an injustice of history by claiming by right the Throne and Sovereign Crown of Great Britain at Westminster, upon whence the said future death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as he will not out of greatest and most deepest respect depose her in life for the great service and selfless sacrifice that she and her husband HRH Prince Philip has rendered to this great nation;

MOREOVER, that the said Allan V. Evans shall apply to claim his said Royal Estate at the Government Legal Office at 1 Keneble Street in London. Anyone wishing to contact the said claimant must do so by and through the said Government Legal Office for security reasons. The said claimant or the government will not entertain any questions from the press until the matter is settled and the decisions of the proceedings are rendered by press release.

TAKE HEED AND REJOICE, all Welshman, Scots, Manx, all Britons, and all citizens of this Great Nation called Great Britain, that the right of freedom and egalitarianism shall be promoted and promulgated, that democracy and all democratic values will be promoted, and that Lady Britannia who has contributed so much to the culture and history of the world shall be renewed and made great once again; for the Legend and history of the world shall be renewed and made great once again; for the Legend was not a myth but was indeed true, and more than a mere Tolkien story, that the men of the West are now returning and now is the time of the return of the King.

Not only that, but Allan V. Evans "shall further pursue an injustice of history by claiming by right the Throne and Sovereign Crown of Great Britain at Westminster."

**Yikes.**

**Here's the page from The Times.**

This is not the first time Allan V. Evans has made the news.

As 13WMAZ reported, in 2012, a man of the same name from Colorado made an attempt to claim 400 acres of land in Twiggs county.

Claiming that 35 homeowners lived on his land, he stated he had proof his ancestors had lived there, but, confusingly also claimed this evidence had been destroyed in a 191 courthouse fire.

We don't think Liz needs to be concerned quite yet.





The newspaper cutting

Still, he's in good company...



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## American flag has 51 stars for Pence visit to European Union

yahoo.com

AP Associated Press February 20, 2017



United States Vice President Mike Pence, left, and EU Council President Donald Tusk pose for photographers as Pence arrives at the European Council building in Brussels, Belgium, on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. Pence is currently on a one day trip to Brussels to meet with EU and NATO officials. (AP Photo/Thierry Monasse)

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Star-Spangled Banner looked more

starry than usual during one of U.S. Vice President Mike Pence's appearances in Brussels.

A background picture of the American flag that went up alongside the European Union flag as Pence and EU leader Donald Tusk spoke on Monday had 51 stars instead of the usual 50, one for each state.

The Brussels version of the flag had three rows of nine stars and three rows with eight stars each. American flags typically feature a total of nine alternating rows of five or six stars

The EU flag featuring 12 stars in a circle against a blue background was configured correctly. And the American flag had the right number of stripes — 13.

The EU Council did not immediately respond when asked about the error with the misplaced star-state.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## An old man named Peter got stuck in a library and his reaction was really funny metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.uk Saturday 25 Mar 2017 4:22 pm



*An old man named Peter got stuck in a library and his reaction was really funny*

Peter is inside (Picture: Google Maps)

A pensioner who was trapped inside a library has been freed – and is now off for a cup of coffee.

Peter Haselworth, 75, was locked inside Birchington Library in Kent after staff allegedly turned off the lights and went home.

He had ‘popped in for 10 minutes’ just before 2pm.

The pensioner, who was forced to call 999 for help, said the alarms sounded for two hours.

He had contemplated pulling himself out the toilet window – but ‘had a fall last week and didn’t want to get stuck’.

Eventually he managed to flag down a local police officer who had the keys to the fire door.

Speaking to KentOnline from inside the building, he said: ‘I eyed up the toilet window but I had a fall last week and damaged myself, so I didn’t want to get stuck.

‘I hope they hurry up – I’m almost 76. I could die in here. At least I’ve got plenty to read.

‘I’m just having a coffee now in Minnis Bay with my wife to replenish myself. I’m driving so I might have something stronger when I get home. If there’s any complementary wine going, I’m into white.’

A spokesperson for Kent County Council said: ‘We are very sorry about what happened to Mr Haselworth.

‘We are glad the local officer was able to free him before we could return to open the door.

‘We fully intend to get in touch with Mr Haselworth to apologise personally and get him that bottle of white wine.’

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



# Ancient Dragons in the Norse Mythology and Scandinavian Folklore

thedockyards.com

## The Dockyards

Scandinavia and beyond



January 10, 2017 By author In History Middle Ages Norse mythology Norsemen Vikings

## Ancient Dragons in the Norse Mythology and Scandinavian Folklore

Since ancient times, the dragon was an important creature and symbol associated with the Norse mythology and, later on, integrated and described in the folk tales of the Scandinavian countries.

So it is that dragons were mentioned and depicted in various legends, sagas, chronicles, and skaldic poems during the High Middle Ages in both Iceland and Denmark. Such prominent literary works from the period in question which detail the role ascribed for dragons in the Norse mythology include *Völuspá* (one of the earliest and most well known poems written in Old Norse), the *Völsung* cycle (a series of renowned Norse legends recorded under literary form in medieval Iceland and as rock carvings in present day Norway, Sweden, and England) or *Gesta Danorum* (a 12th century chronicle authored by Saxo Grammaticus which recounts the history of the Danes).



Viking Age longship decorated with a dragon head on the bow. Illustration from the Bayeux Tapestry. Image source: [www.commons.wikimedia.org](http://www.commons.wikimedia.org)

By far, the most well known Norse dragons accounted in the aforementioned sources are *Níðhöggr* (or *Nidhogg* in English and modern Norwegian), *Jörmungandr* (commonly known as the Midgard Serpent), *Fáfnir* (the mythical dragon slain by Sigurd), and a certain dragon killed by Frotho I, a legendary King of the Danes portrayed in *Gesta Danorum*.

*Níðhöggr* (literally 'malice striker' in English, as the Old Norse term 'níð' meant loss of honour in the Norse society and 'högr' striker respectively) appears in the Old Norse texts as an atrocious creature which gnaws the roots of the world tree, namely *Yggdrasil*. Consequently, it was named as such given its appearance and its terrifying behaviour towards the dishonest dwellers of *Hel* (the realm of the dishonorable dead in Norse cosmology).



Nidhogg, as depicted in a 17th century Icelandic manuscript. Image source: [www.commonswikimedia.org](http://www.commonswikimedia.org)

trickster god Loki, is the humongous sea serpent which dwells in the ocean that encircles Midgard (the realm of humankind in Norse cosmology). Its nemesis is represented by Thor, the god of lightnings and thunders, protector of mankind.



Artistic depiction of Thor fighting the sea serpent from 'Asgard Stories: Tales from Norse Mythology' by Foster, Mary H. (1901), page 105. Image source: [www.commonswikimedia.org](http://www.commonswikimedia.org)

Fáfnir, initially the son of King Hreiðmarr (Hreidmar) of the dwarves, is said to have been cursed at some point by a magical ring crafted by a magician dwarf by the name Andvari which turned him into a dragon. Subsequently, he will be slain by Sigurd, a legendary Norse hero.

Interestingly enough, he might have been the basis for the fantasy dragon Smaug from J.R.R. Tolkien's first high fantasy novel 'The Hobbit' published in 1937, which further explains the so-called 'dragon sickness' for gold.

As a matter of fact, much of the information on the dwarves stemming from the Norse mythology was adapted into Tolkien's work, particularly in 'The Hobbit', where some dwarves themselves present many characteristics to the noble ones who are to be found in Völsunga saga or the Prose Edda of Snorri Sturluson.



Sigurd fighting Fáfnir, as imagined by English illustrator Arthur Rackham. Image source: [www.commonswikimedia.org](http://www.commonswikimedia.org)

Last but not least, similarly to the case of Fáfnir and his gold treasure, the legendary Danish king Frode I (Frotho I in English) is accounted in Saxo Grammaticus' 12th century Gesta Danorum (literally 'The Deeds of the Danes') as travelling at some point to an island where a dragon lived in a cave of a mountain, guarding abundant riches of an immense hoard.

To defend against its poison, Frotho needed to equip himself prior to the clash with a special cowhides shield. Just as with the dwarves, Frotho might have also inspired Tolkien in creating the hobbit Frodo (although this could be a mere coincidence with respect to their names).

Regarding the real usage of the dragon in the Norse culture, it must be mentioned that the most wealthiest of the reputed longships were decorated with dragon heads on their bow and stern, as a sign of strength, power, and bravery. In addition, waving draco flags were sometimes on the battlefield by the Norsemen (and also by the Anglo-Saxons) in order to intimidate their foes. Thus, the dragon was definitely a major symbol that defined the Viking Age.

## Documentation sources and external links:

- Norse dragon on [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (in English)
  - Nidhogg on [www.norse-mythology.org](http://www.norse-mythology.org)
  - Jormungand on [www.norse-mythology.org](http://www.norse-mythology.org)
  - Rings, dwarves, elves and dragons: J.R.R. Tolkien's influences on [www.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.uhi.ac.uk) (University of the Highlands and Islands)
  - Viking Age dragon's head found at Birka on [www.su.se](http://www.su.se) (Stockholm University)
  - Fafnir in 'Encyclopedia of Beasts and Monsters in Myth, Legend and Folklore', page 122 by Theresa Bane (on Google Books)
  - Beowulf and the Dragon: Parallels and Analogues, The Dragon Episode, pages 42-43 by Christine Rauer (on Google Books)
- 

Copyright © 2017 The Dockyards. Proudly powered by WordPress. Silverclean design by Iceable Themes.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Ancient temple revealed after drought drains reservoir in Mexico

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Feb 2017 9:47 am



*Ancient temple revealed after drought drains reservoir in Mexico*

The church was submerged in the reservoir in the 1960s (Picture: CEN)

**A drought has revealed a 400-year-old Dominican church that has remained intact despite spending decades underwater in a reservoir in Mexico.**

The church, which was submerged in the 1960s when the nearby Benito Juárez Dam was built, partially reappears every year.

However, a severe drought in Mexico has caused the water level to drop so much the temple is now almost completely visible.

Drone footage has shown that despite remaining underwater for so long much of the stone structure beneath the surface is still completely intact.

The church was built in the late 1500s by monks and nuns as they arrived in Mexico to spread Christianity.

A 16th century church is revealed by drought <http://metro.co.uk/video/1413651>



This is a modal window.

The drought has caused problems for local farmers (Picture: CEN)  
Although it becomes partially visible every years the temple is rarely completely seen (Picture: CEN)  
The structure has remained completely intact (Picture: CEN)  
The church was last revealed in 2008 when a drought hit the region (Picture: CEN)

Tour guide and fisherman Miguel Oliveira told RT: 'This temple is believed to have been built between 1550 and 1600.

'Here was venerated the virgin Mary of assumption. She is the patroness of Santa María Jalapa de Márquez,'

The dam was built in 1962 to boost agriculture in the south east of Mexico by increasing the availability of water.



*Ancient temple revealed after drought drains lake in Mexico*

However, while revealing the church, the severe drought has put hundreds of corn producers under threat.

The temple was also almost completely revealed in 2008 when a critical drought has caused the water level to recede.



*dmvidpics-2017-02-16-at-09-16-57*



*dmvidpics-2017-02-16-at-09-17-08*



*Ancient temple revealed after drought drains lake in Mexico*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## 'Angel of Death' serial killer dies after attack in prison

yahoo.com

**AP** TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A serial killer known as the "Angel of Death" after he admitted killing three dozen hospital patients in Ohio and Kentucky died Thursday, two days after investigators said he was attacked in prison, Ohio's prisons department said.

Donald Harvey, who was serving multiple life sentences, was found beaten in his cell Tuesday afternoon at the state's prison in Toledo, state officials said.

He died Thursday morning, said JoEllen Smith, spokeswoman for Ohio's prison system. He was 64.

While details about the attack weren't released, he was beaten when an unnamed person went into his cell, a patrol report said.

Harvey pleaded guilty in 1987 to killing 37 people, mostly while he worked as a nurse's aide at hospitals in Cincinnati and London, Kentucky. He later claimed he was responsible for killing 18 others while working at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Cincinnati.

He told his former attorney the killings began in 1970 when he was at Marymount Hospital in Kentucky.

Many of his victims were chronically ill patients and he claimed he was trying to end their suffering.

Harvey used arsenic and cyanide to poison most of his victims, often putting it in the hospital food he served them, prosecutors said. Some of the patients were suffocated when he let their oxygen tanks run out.

Twenty-one of the people Harvey killed were patients at the former Drake Memorial Hospital in Cincinnati, where he worked as a nurse's assistant.

He was caught after a medical examiner smelled cyanide while performing an autopsy on a victim.

Harvey told a newspaper after he pleaded guilty to avoid the death penalty that he liked the control of determining who lived and died.

Former Hamilton County Prosecutor Arthur Ney Jr. who prosecuted the cases in Cincinnati said Harvey was not a mercy killer.

"He killed because he liked to kill," Ney said.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Angel of the knife: Police create sculpture out of weapons people have handed in

metro.co.uk



The knife angel that was created with 100,000 knives (Picture: PA)

A sculpture of an angel crafted from thousands of knives surrendered during a Government-backed amnesty is nearing completion after receiving blades from more than 40 police forces.

Sussex Police this week became the latest force to offer its support for the so-called Knife Angel – created by the Shropshire-based British Ironwork Centre as a national

monument to victims of knife crime.

Sussex Police announced plans on Tuesday to donate blades dumped in amnesty 'bins' to the Knife Angel, which has been put together by 25-year-old sculptor Alfie Bradley.



(Picture: PA)

Clive Knowles, the chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, based near Oswestry, hopes the statue will go on display on Trafalgar Square's fourth plinth in London once it has been finished with blades recovered in the Sussex and South Yorkshire police areas.

George Osborne has got a new job

Mr Knowles said: 'The project started two years ago and it started with us seeing a documentary where the police were being criticised for not being proactive on reducing knife crime figures.

'We offered to build 150 knife amnesty banks for British police forces free of any cost. And the only proviso was that they would have to give us the weaponry in order to build a national monument against violence and aggression.'

(Picture: PA)



An application to site the statue in Trafalgar

Square cannot be submitted until it has been completed and weighed, Mr Knowles said.





Speaking after Sussex Police confirmed it would support the project, the county's Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne said: 'The sculpture will be a very poignant reminder to us all of the victims of knife crime and it's vital that we continue to raise awareness of the extremely serious consequences of carrying a knife.'

South Yorkshire Police has also said it is prepared to donate seized knives to the project.

Temporary Superintendent Simon Wanless said:

'South Yorkshire Police have not been requested to supply any knives for the sculpture that is being built.

'However, we would be happy to supply seized knives from our store if we were contacted and provided a plan on how the knives would be safely transported and stored.'

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited  
Back to top







/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

**'World's best ever' ghost photo 'shows ABRAHAM LINCOLN at White House'** express.co.uk

**'World's best ever' ghost photo 'shows ABRAHAM LINCOLN at White House'**

**PARANORMAL experts are hailing this black and white picture taken at the**

**White House as the "world's most amazing ghost photograph" ever taken.**

By Jon Austin

PUBLISHED: 15:41, Fri, Mar 3, 2017 | UPDATED: 16:21, Fri, Mar 3, 2017

Some have suggested the translucent figure in the back right of the image could even be the ghost of former President Abraham Lincoln.

The image was taken by photographer Abbie Rowe during Harry S Truman's reconstruction of the White House in 1950.

It shows the eerie figure standing on his own away from a group of there men to the left.

Ghost hunter Joshua P Warren, questioned if it was the "most amazing ghost picture" ever in a YouTube video featuring his investigations into the image.

He said the White House was alleged to be haunted by the ghost of the former president, and the figure was standing beneath the Lincoln bedroom.



USARCHIVE\*YouTube

Paranormal investigators claim the figure circled could be the ghost of Abraham Lincoln.

During his inquiry he tried to track down the original negative, but was unable to.

He said: "But it is an official government photograph, and no one contest its authenticity."

He visited photography experts for their views.

James D Steele said: "He is very fuzzy. My inclination is to suspect it is as a result of low iso very low sensitive film , a long shutter

speed, so someone stood for two or three seconds.

"Long enough to register, but they moved quickly to another place out of view."

However, he admitted if it were a ghost he would have no way of telling the difference.

Another snapper Pete McCutchen argued it could also be a pattern on the stone, which appeared like a human figure due to the effects of pareidolia when the brain tricks the eyes into seeing familiar objects or shapes in a pattern or texture.

A close up of the phantom, ringed, shows the see-through figure.

In my opinion, this is truly the world's most amazing ghost photograph.

Joshua P Warren



YouTube

Mr Warren's co-producer C Eric Scott, also a professional photographer, tried to recreate the image using a low exposure, but was unable to capture anyone as such a clear, translucent apparition, but was unable to.

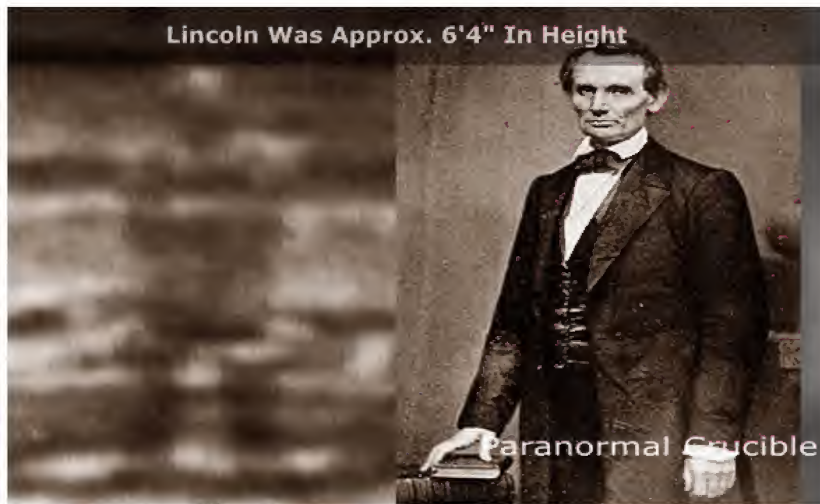
This led Mr Warren to conclude it was a ghost.

He said: "We know 100 percent it is a legitimate picture taken by one most credible and competent photographers in history, and taken inside the White House, one of the most important places in the work drilled with drama and intense human energy.

"In my opinion, this is truly the world's most

amazing ghost photograph."

Viewers were not convinced.



Youtube

Ghost hunters claim the White House is haunted by Abraham Lincoln.

Ann Etheridge said: "Sorry. It's a long exposure. There are thousands of examples of the same."

YouTube channel Paranormal Crucible also featured the image in a video.

It said: "The black and white photograph appears to show a translucent human figure standing in the basement of the White House, at the back of a construction zone.

"Many experts claim its the ghost of President Abraham Lincoln."

Viewers of the channel thought it might be a ghost, but not necessarily the former president.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



# NC church has unconventional rules for sex and marriage

apnews.com

**AP**

AP



## NC church has unconventional rules for sex and marriage

By MITCH WEISS

SPINDALE, N.C. (AP) — When it comes to relationships, marriage and sex, Word of Faith Fellowship members must follow strict and unusual rules — or risk severe punishment, former members say.

Some of the edicts:

— Congregants need permission from leader Jane Whaley and other ministers to get married, and it then can take months — or even a year — before the newlyweds are allowed to have sex.

— No one is allowed to date without permission, and most relationships and marriages are arranged by Whaley and ministers.



— On their wedding night, couples are permitted only a "godly peck on the cheek." When they get in bed together, they must roll over and go to sleep.

— For all married couples, love-making is limited to 30 minutes, no foreplay is allowed, the lights must be turned off and only the missionary position is sanctioned.

— Couples need permission from church leadership to have children, and leaders dole out condoms to make sure

unapproved women don't get pregnant.

The former followers said couples violating the rules can be publicly rebuked, subjected to violence or forced to separate.

All contents © copyright 2017 Associated Press. All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Beautiful images capture Antarctic research station's 14 mile journey

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

**The ultimate wilderness: Stunning images capture the Antarctic research station's 14-mile journey across the ice shelf**

**• The Halley VI Research Station is home to the British Antarctic Survey who discovered the ozone layer hole**

- It was successfully relocated 14 miles across the Brunt Ice Shelf after detection of an ice crack**
- One of the team captured these incredible images that document this monumental journey**
- The station will be abandoned for the winter before researchers move back for November 2017**

By Phoebe Weston For Mailonline

This stunning photo project shows the otherworldly scenes when the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) successfully relocated its Halley VI Research Station this year.

The research station is home to the British Antarctic Survey which first discovered the hole in the ozone layer.

Intimately captured through the lens of one of the team, these images offer an insider's view of the amazing 14-mile journey.

Scroll down for video



The Halley VI Research Station was successfully relocated across the Brunt Ice Shelf, amid fears it could slide into an encroaching fissure

The results set man-made colours against the pristine white of the Antarctic: green tractors; a yellow bulldozer, and the blue and reds of the Halley Station modules.

It took operational teams 13 weeks to make the move to the new home on the Brunt Ice Shelf. The station is now ready for re-occupation at

the end of the Antarctic winter (November 2017).

Last month, as a safety precaution, the Director of BAS took the decision not to winter a team at Halley following the detection of a new and unpredictable ice crack on the Brunt Ice Shelf.

- Amazon announces plans to ship packages to the MOON by 2020... Are these headphones the answer to distracting colleagues?... The wait is over: Nintendo's shape-**



shifting Switch hits the...

- Secret to ageing well down to lifestyle, not just genes:...



Green tractors pull a Halley Station module. The research station is home to the British Antarctic Survey which first discovered the hole in the ozone layer

It took operational teams 13 weeks make the move to the new home on the Brunt Ice Shelf. The station is now ready for re-occupation at the end of the Antarctic winter (November 2017)

Modules are moved to the new site. Last month, as a safety precaution, the Director of BAS took the decision not to winter a team at Halley following the detection of a new and unpredictable ice crack on the Brunt Ice Shelf

## HALLEY VI RESEARCH STATION

Halley Research Station is an award-winning science lab, complete with accommodation for researchers.

The modular lab, which was first constructed in 1956, is run by the British Antarctic Survey.

It was here that researchers first discovered the hole in the ozone layer.

Halley is home to 70 staff during the summer (late December to early March) and around 16 during winter.

While during the Antarctic summer ships and aircraft operating in the vicinity would enable BAS to mount a fast uplift of personnel if a fracturing of the ice shelf occurred.

However, access is extremely difficult during the winter months of 24-hour darkness,



extremely low temperatures and the frozen sea.

Michal Krzysztofowicz who took the photos explains: 'It all went well, really without a glitch, and was finished actually before the deadline.'

'The last module arrived to the new site around the 20 January 2017, but following that there was some work to be done connecting them up, commissioning all services and testing to make sure it all works fine, which it does.'



Scientific instruments and equipment have been 'winterised' at the new site, ready to be used when the science teams return in November.



Preparing the first module (H2 Science) for the move to the new site. Whilst during the Antarctic summer ships and aircraft operating in the vicinity would enable BAS to mount a fast uplift of personnel if a fracturing of the ice shelf occurred, access is extremely difficult during the winter months of 24-hour darkness, extremely low temperatures and the frozen sea

Scientific instruments and equipment have been 'winterised' at the new site, ready to be used when the science teams return in November



Green tractors pull a Halley Station module. The modular lab, which was first constructed in 1956, is run by the British Antarctic Survey

Some scientific equipment is being returned to UK for maintenance.

Director of BAS Professor Dame Jane Francis commented after the move: 'The relocation is a terrific achievement for our operational teams.



'Everyone who has worked so hard is absolutely buoyant about the success of the move. They talk about the great collegiality, what a great team they made, and how much they will miss working together.

'They are very proud of what they achieved and I am proud of them all.'

'Delivering a complex project like this in remote Antarctica requires exceptional people,' said Adam Bradley, the project

manager for the relocation.

A module is moved to the new site. Halley sits on the 130 metre-thick Brunt Ice Shelf. The ice shelf flows slowly out onto the Weddell Sea, where chunks of ice 'calve' off as icebergs

Green tractors pull a Halley Station module. The research facility comprises eight modules sitting atop hydraulic legs, enabling each module to be towed to a new location



'The team down here this season surpassed our expectations – they worked incredibly hard, often in very difficult conditions, to get the job done safely and on schedule.'

'The camaraderie of the group has been amazing, which made the season fun as well as successful.'

Meteorological and ozone equipment is being readied in temporary facilities so that measurements can resume as early as possible next Antarctic summer.



The British Antarctic survey said changes to the ice presents 'a complex glaciological picture' that causes concern about the shelf on which the station is located in the coming months.

The survey says a new crack on the floating Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica will force them to remove people before the Antarctic winter, which runs from March to November, ends.

There's no risk to the people currently at the station, but difficulties in evacuating people

during the winter prompted scientists to shut the station as a precaution.

'Halley VI Research Station sits on a floating ice shelf. It was designed specifically to move inland if required,' said Director of Operations Captain Tim Stockings.



A module is moved to the new site. Halley is home to 70 staff during the summer (late December to early March) and around 16 during winter

Meteorological and ozone equipment is being readied in temporary facilities so that measurements can resume as early as possible next Antarctic summer

The British Antarctic survey said changes to the ice presents 'a complex glaciological picture' that causes concern about the shelf

on which the station is located in the coming months

'Our goal is to winterise the station and leave it ready for re-occupation as soon as possible after the Antarctic winter.'





The station is a platform for global Earth, atmospheric and space weather observation in a climate-sensitive zone.

The first chasm, which had lain dormant for more than three decades, began opening up in 2012, and by the following year it was expanding at the rapid pace of one mile per year.

On October 2016, a second crack appeared some 17 km to the north of the research station.



Since then glaciologists have monitored the growth of this crack using a network of GPS instruments that measure the deformation of the ice, together with European Space Agency satellite imagery, ground penetrating radar, and on-site drone footage, which show that the recent changes to the Brunt Ice Shelf have not been seen before.

The survey says a new crack on the floating Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica will force them to remove people before the Antarctic winter, which runs from March to November, ends

The first chasm, which had lain dormant for more than three decades, began opening up in 2012, and by the following year it was expanding at the rapid pace of one mile per year

## KILLER CHASMS

The first chasm, which had lain dormant for more than three decades, began opening up in 2012, and by the following year it was expanding at the rapid pace of one mile per



year.

On October 2016, a second crack appeared some 17 km to the north of the research station.

Researchers conclude that they are unable to predict with certainty what will happen to the ice shelf during the forthcoming Antarctic winter and beyond.

They have run computer models and created bathymetric maps to determine whether or not a large iceberg will cave, and the impact that could have on the remaining ice shelf.





They conclude that they are unable to predict with certainty what will happen to the ice shelf during the forthcoming Antarctic winter and beyond.

If the research station is not relocated, it could be swallowed by the ice by 2020.

The problem is further compounded by a second crack, which has opened up to the north of the base, on a route sometimes used to deliver supplies.

Crucial research carried out at the base

includes studies into as the impact of extreme space weather events, climate change, and atmospheric phenomena.



Photographer and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Data Manager Michal Krzysztofowicz who took the photos. Halley has also taken ozone measurements continually since 1956, with the team first discovering the Antarctic Ozone Hole in 1985

The team survey the route for a Halley module. Crucial research carried out at the base includes studies into as the impact of extreme space weather events, climate change, and atmospheric phenomena

Halley has taken ozone measurements continually since 1956, with the team first discovering the Antarctic Ozone Hole in 1985.

'Over the last couple of years, our operational teams have been meticulous in developing very detailed plans for the move, said Mr Stockings, Director of Operations at the British Antarctic Survey.

'Antarctica can be a very hostile environment. Each summer season is very short - about nine weeks.



The research base also hosts an ongoing European Space Agency (ESA) experiment, testing how well people can adapt to life in remote and isolated locations

'And because the ice and the weather are unpredictable, we have to be flexible in our approach.

'We are especially keen to minimise the disruption to the science programmes.



The research base also hosts an ongoing European Space Agency (ESA) experiment, testing how well people can adapt to life in remote and isolated locations.

The data will be used in preparations for long space flights, such as the first Mars landing.

Crucial research carried out at the base includes studies into as the impact of extreme space weather events, climate change, and atmospheric phenomena



A module is moved to the new site. The modular lab, which was first constructed in 1956, is run by the British Antarctic Survey

Scientific instruments and equipment have been 'winterised' at the new site, ready to be used when the science teams return in November

The comments below have not been moderated.

DC3skyliner, Pinehurst, United States, about 5 hours ago

I'd love to go inside and have a look around.

Len, London, United Kingdom, about 3 hours ago

If you go to the British Antarctic Survey website they have a VR program that will let you have a look around inside the pods.

bighealey, Newark, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago



I wonder what Scott, or Shackleton would make of this if they were able to come back to-day?. Then for that matter even Captain James Cook sailed right down South after he had discovered the East coast of Australia & New Zealand, he went that far South after he left the South island of New Zealand that he was sailing among icebergs, if anything had have gone wrong that would have been curtains for them all. I have been there into the Australian section, absolutely amazing, the old wooden huts are still there complete with the equipment that the pioneers used, no one there to vandalize or steal anything. This is the time to go because it is Summer there right now.

DebtCollector, Liverpool, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago





once the ice has melted it will be a mad dash for the oil. The South pole used to be a jungle millions of years ago.

Tiseye, Tehachapi, United States, about 10 hours ago

Great pictures! I didn't see what all this has cost. Was just wondering.

Beachcomber, Cumbria, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

There's always one bean counter. Someone

who knows the price of everything - but the value of nothing

Scooter McGee, Otisburg, United States, about 11 hours ago

Where's it's propellers? It needs propellers!

jmc, laughing, United States, about 12 hours ago

I would just love to spend a week or so there.

miker7, coventry, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

Enter your commentI thought it was really cool that the tractors went under the modules to pull up the later ones.

Mr.Roster, Las Vegas, United States, about 13 hours ago

Those are interesting structures.

G M, abq, United States, about 3 hours ago

Agreed. Impressive design concept.

Paul Beaumont, Lisbon, Portugal, about 13 hours ago

Makes you PROUD to be \*\*GREAT WORLD RESPECTED BRITISH.

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Christian priests in anti-voodoo cult charged as 5 die at 'end of world' vigil

By Record Reporter 17:39, 17 FEB 2017 News

[dailyrecord.co.uk](http://dailyrecord.co.uk)

### Christian priests from anti-voodoo cult charged after five people die at 'end of the world' prayer vigil

**The victims suffocated after they were instructed to seal off their prayer rooms and burn charcoal while waiting for the world to end.**



Survivors of the prayer ritual that killed five people are treated in hospital (Photo: Reuters) Vicentia Chanvoukini is known as "Lady Perfect" and is considered a deity by her followers Voodoo alters in Benin where the magical tradition endures despite efforts by Christian missionaries to stamp it out



Four Christian priests from an anti-voodoo cult in Africa have been charged over their role in five deaths during prayers held last month in anticipation of the end of the world.

The followers of the "Very Holy Church of Jesus Christ of Baname" in Benin died after they were instructed to seal off their prayer rooms, burn incense and charcoal and wait for the world to end.

The five victims suffocated while other worshipers who survived were treated in hospital for severe breathing problems.

The four priests were charged with manslaughter in the capital Porto Novo and were sent to prison pending trial.

The group's young leader, Vicentia Chanvoukini, known as "Lady Perfect" and considered a deity by her followers, was not charged.

She said: "Those who died are not really members of the church, they are people who came to test us."

The cult, which denounces Benin's local voodoo culture, has thousands

of followers in the small West African country.

There have been several violent clashes between the Baname followers, who often wear red scarves to identify themselves, and members of other faiths since 2009.

About 40 per cent of people in Benin follow voodoo, which includes worship of royal pythons at the country's pink Temple of the Python.

Voodoo also enjoys its own national holiday.



Voodoo traditions endure despite efforts by Christian missionaries to stamp them out in centuries past.



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Aquarium tank holding 13 sharks BURSTS OPEN and floods a city's streets

By Martina Salas Annabel Howard 13:39, 3 FEB 2017 Updated 21:09, 3 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**An 80cm section of acrylic glass reportedly detached and collapsed causing the massive leak**





A glass aquarium holding 13 sharks tank has cracked open sending water gushing into the streets.

The footage is akin to a horror film as torrents of water flood the nearby area with the creatures still lurking in the tank watching in wait.

Emergency services were called when a panel detached from the base of a pool at the aquarium in the city of Mazatlan, in the western Mexican state of Sinaloa.

An 80cm section of acrylic glass reportedly detached and collapsed causing the leak - but luckily the hole was not big enough for the sharks or other fish to escape.

The pool housed 13 sharks and various other fish but all were successfully transferred to other tanks, and happened while the aquarium was closed.

It had only opened on December 23 after eight years of construction and with a final bill of more than £3m.



*This footage shows how an aquarium's shark tank cracked and released torrents of water, flooding nearby streets.*

Local politician Fernando Pucheta Sanchez told a press conference that the aquarium had been opened days before the former president of the city left his post and that "the work was opened in an irresponsible way."

Local media said that Milay Quintero, the director of the aquarium, had warned about fissures in the pool some days





*This footage shows how an aquarium's shark tank cracked and released torrents of water, flooding nearby streets.*



*This footage shows how an aquarium's shark tank cracked and released torrents of water, flooding nearby streets.*

before the accident and asked for a structural review of the building.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Army Command Post Issues Memo Banning Nickelback Music

huffingtonpost.com

It looks at least one army command post is going to war, but with Nickelback, not Iran or Russia.

A bizarre memo issued February 14 at an army command post in Washington State has declared that Nickelback's music can no longer be played at all times.

Besides the 'back, the memo bans Korn, Slipknot, Smash Mouth and Creed.

The memo first came to light via the U.S. Army W.T.F! Moments Facebook page where it appeared in heavily redacted form, as seen below:

The memo has rocked the world of many military music fans, many of whom aren't happy with their bands being mentioned on the list.

One commenter said putting Slipknot on the same list as Nickelback "is blasphemy, and not the cool kind of blasphemy that the band would appreciate."

Others took issue with the memo itself, saying it didn't match up with Army regulations, even using incorrect indentation for memos.

U.S Army W.T.F! Moments spokesman Mike Trysom said the memo is real, but the sentiment may be tongue-in-cheek.

[The term] 'Real' depends on your outlook," Trysom told The Huffington Post. "Do we really think this commander signed that memo as a lawful order? No, not at all. It was likely a joke or a prank he played on one of the platoons under his command. The memo is valid and in the right format... some of our commenters are not as smart as they think they are."

Joke or not, Trysom said the commander's sentiments struck a chord with him and the page's other editors.

"We think it was pretty funny, and ... we approve of his prohibitions, especially. Nickleback!" he said.

The memo can't be good news for Nickelback, which, once again, is having their music dragged in the mud.

Back in November, a Canadian police department tried to prevent drunk driving by threatening to force offenders to listen to Nickelback.

The Kensington Police Service on Prince Edward Island later apologized after a band spokesman complained.

In December, Mark Zuckerberg referenced the band in a YouTube skit involving his new AI assistant, named "Jarvis."

In order to demonstrate the device's abilities, Zuckerberg asked Jarvis to play "some good Nickelback songs."

"I'm afraid I can't do that," Jarvis responded. "There are no good Nickelback songs."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Art thief drove stolen car to seek pardon from wrong attorney general, police say

nbcnews.com



News

Jan 18 2017, 9:33 pm ET

### Art Thief Drove Stolen Car to Seek Pardon From Wrong Attorney General, Police Say

by Alex Johnson

A PBS-loving convicted art thief who drove from Miami to suburban Washington, D.C., to ask for a presidential pardon was in custody Wednesday after he was found to be driving a stolen car, police said.

Marcus Sanford Patmon, 45, of Miami, was arrested Sunday outside a Starbucks in Arlington, Virginia, after a police license plate reader indicated that his parked vehicle had been reported as stolen, police said.

Ashley Savage, a police spokeswoman, told NBC Washington on Wednesday that Patmon "wanted to meet with Eric Holder" because "he was looking to be pardoned by the Obama administration before the Trump administration came in."



IMAGE: Marcus Patmon

Marcus Sanford Patmon. NBC Washington

One problem (besides the stolen car): Eric Holder is no longer the attorney general. That would be Loretta Lynch.

Patmon remained in the Arlington County Jail on Wednesday on a charge of unauthorized use of a stolen vehicle, according to court records. No attorney of record was listed.

According to the FBI, Patmon pleaded guilty in 2009 to attempted wire fraud and interstate transportation of stolen property for trafficking in two stolen Pablo Picasso etchings and a stolen Marc Chagall lithograph — together worth well more than a half-million dollars.

According to federal court documents, a California art dealer to whom Patmon tried to sell the Picassos smelled something fishy and contacted authorities, and the FBI soon had an undercover agent on the case.

When authorities searched Patmon's Miami home, they found one of the Picassos, a 1957 etching of a woman reading a book called "Jacqueline Lisant," hidden behind the sofa. Patmon later confessed, according to an FBI affidavit.

Patmon served a little less than two years in prison and was released in 2012, federal records show.



Much of the court record remains sealed even today. But prosecutors have said Patmon told investigators he'd been inspired by an episode of the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow" to steal and resell art so he could resume the comfortable life he'd been living before he was convicted of assault in 2001.

The Punta Gorda, Florida police chief and one of his officers have been charged in connection with the fatal shooting of a retiree during a training exercise — a tragedy that made national headlines last year.

Officer Lee Coel, who is accused of firing the fatal shot that killed 73-year-old Mary Knowlton, is charged with felony manslaughter with a firearm. He faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

His boss, Chief Tom Lewis, is charged with culpable negligence, a misdemeanor. He could get 60 days in jail if he's found guilty.

The two officers were arrested Thursday after the Florida Department of Law Enforcement wrapped up its investigation of the Aug. 9 shooting at the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce.

"The Knowlton family is dealing with a tremendous loss," State Attorney Steven Russell of the 20th Judicial Circuit said.

Russell said they charged the officers after reviewing "the totality of the facts in evidence."

Lewis has been placed on paid administrative leave and Captain Jason Ciaschini "will assume the role of acting chief of police while we sort this out," City Manager Howard Kunik said in a statement.

Coel is facing a disciplinary hearing "to determine his future employment status with the department," Kunik said.

Knowlton, a retired librarian, was taking part in a citizen police academy "shoot/don't shoot" exercise when she was struck by a live round while almost three dozen other participants looked on.



Mary Knowlton ended her employment in 1988. From 1993-2001 she served on the library board of advisers for the Scott County Library system. Provided by family.

Coel was using a revolver that had been used before in these drills and Lewis said in the aftermath of the shooting "we were unaware that any live ammunition existed for this kind of weapon. We thought only blanks were available."

Three months after Knowlton was killed, the city approved a \$2 million settlement with her surviving family.

Even before the shooting, Coel had been a controversial figure in his department. In October 2015, dash cam video recorded a man named Richard Schumacher being mauled by Coel's police dog for at least two minutes during an arrest.

Schumacher received a \$70,000 settlement from the city, which also paid his \$130,000 medical bills, his lawyer Scott Weinberg said.

"We so sorry for the Knowlton family," Weinberg said. "This was a preventable tragedy. If this officer had been taken off the street after the Schumacher and other numerous incidents, this would never have happened."

The Punta Gorda Police Department did not reply to requests for comment.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Artillery shells handed in at police station and forces it to close in London

By Megan White 23:37, 28 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Artillery shells handed in at police station and forces it to close in south London

**Kingston police station had to be partially evacuated after the two shells, designed to hold explosive ammunition, were handed in at the station**



Artillery shells were handed in at Kingston police station (Photo: MPSKingston)

A police station was evacuated after ARTILLERY SHELLS were handed in at the front desk.

Kingston police station had to be partially evacuated after the two shells, designed to hold explosive ammunition, were handed in at the station.

Officers decided to close the station in south west London as a precaution and cordons were put in place at around 2.30pm.

Specialist units were deployed to the scene and no arrests were made.

PC Seb Ellis said: "A member of the public walked into the station and said 'I want to hand these in', so

we looked in their bag and saw two artillery shells.

"We weren't sure if they were live or not, we had to call special teams to sort it and make it safe.

"It would be ideal if people had artillery to give us a call first and we can collect it."

Kingston MPS tweeted: "Kingston Police Station front office is currently closed while we deal with an incident.

"Member of the public hands in artillery shells to the front counter we clear the area while specialist units deal."

A Met Police spokesman said: "Items suspected to be artillery shells were handed in at Kingston Police Station at around 2.30pm on Tuesday February 28th

"The station was partially evacuated as a precaution and temporarily closed. Specialist units were called to the scene to deal.

"The suspected shells have now been removed and the station has reopened."

- Metropolitan Police

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Artist creates portraits of dead people using their own remains

metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 1 Mar 2017 8:00 am



Ashes portrait of Emily Boxer, the mother of Heides art dealer Adam Boxer (Picture: Heide Hatry/Caters)

**An artist has created portraits of dead people using the person's own ashes.**

Heide Hatry, 51, who lives in New York, has been commemorating lost loved ones with cremation portraits since 2008.

To create the likeness of the deceased, the German artist adds the ashes, piece by piece to layers of wax.

Heide said: 'I was in a terrible state of grief because a close friend, who I had no idea was in such distress, had just committed suicide.

'It not only devastated me but also brought back all the unresolved pain I had felt over my father's death fifteen years earlier.



A portrait of Heides father Paul Schmid Picture: Heides Hatry/Cateres)

'By chance, I had recently seen cremated ashes for the first time and I had been deeply moved by the experience.

'Probably as a result I had the idea, which did come as a kind of flash, of making portraits of my father and my friend out of their ashes.'

She added: 'For me the portraits were life-changing since I had to perfect the technique while I worked, but at the end I felt a sense of solace that was astonishing.

'At first I thought that it must have had to do with the process itself, which is extremely painstaking and highly meditative, and during which I was in deep communion with their images, often talking or arguing out loud with them as if they were there.

'But then a friend who knew what I was doing and who had lost his own mother at an early age and always felt that their relationship was unresolved asked me if I would make a portrait out of her ashes for him, which I did, and he described a very similar experience to what I had also felt, a profound and consoling sense of her presence.'

A portrait of John Bernard Boxer, the father of Heides art dealer Adam Boxer (Picture: Heide Hatry/Caters)

### How are the ashes turned into art?

Heide perfected a time-consuming method, until it took just three to four months to complete.

Describing her technique, she explained: 'I use a beautiful wooden board on which I apply a layer of beeswax, and then I position each tiny particle of ash one by one using the tip of a scalpel.



'It is more similar to the traditional mosaic process than to painting, a lot of discrete and minute actions rather than the fluid and often rapid motions of painting.'

'The ashes, which consist entirely of bone, are one colour, so I make different shades of grey by also employing birch coal – the tree as symbol of life – and white marble dust, as a symbol for death.'

'The resulting images are a highly textured black-and-white.'

Heide has produced over 30 portraits using ashes to replicate the subject's likeness using a photograph provided by families or friends.

She said: 'Most people see the loving approach and are touched by it, though others find it unpleasant to think about.'

She added: 'The Romans said 'vita brevis, ars longa' – Life is short, art is long- and I feel that this is a respectful way not only of honouring the ones we loved and of keeping them with us, keeping them in mind and in some sort of ordinary relationship to us, but of sustaining the part of us that was them, the pain of losing which we tend to feel and to express as grief.'

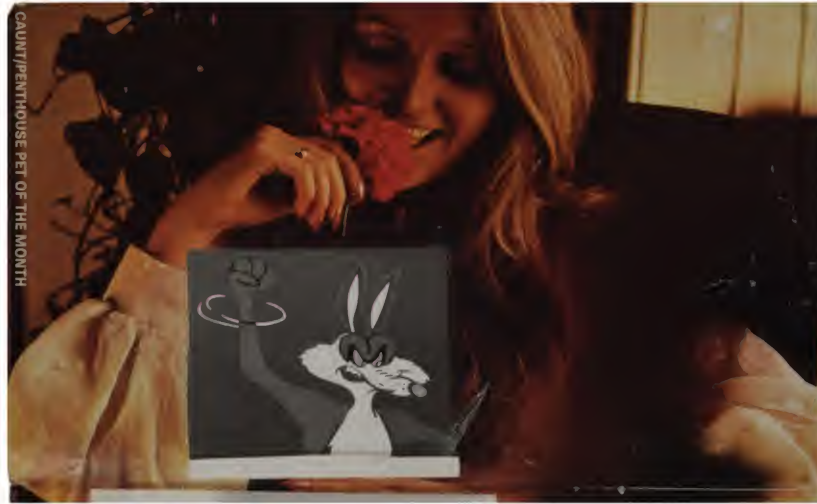
**Now her powerful portraits are on show at the Ubu Gallery in New York, Icons in Ash: Cremation Portraits runs until May 12th.**

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Astronaut's secret porn mag which travelled to the moon goes on sale [metro.co.uk](http://metro.co.uk)

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 28 Mar 2017 8:58 pm



Credit: RR Auction

Connoisseurs of vintage porn, start your engines – next month a Penthouse centrefold which actually travelled to the moon is going up for sale.

The centrefold was taken along on the Apollo 17 mission – the last time humans walked on the moon, and is up for sale via RR Auctions.

Commander Gene Cernan carried the photo of Penthouse Pet of the month

Helen Caunt with him on the mission which blasted off in December 1972.

The porn centrefold is expected to fetch more than \$10,000 (£8,000).



Credit: RR Auction

It was the last manned mission of NASA's Saturn V rockets, and the last time human beings travelled beyond low Earth orbit.

Veteran astronaut Cernan – who died earlier this year – said that pages from the porn mag were taped into the mission's flight plan as a joke.

Stickers of Wile E Coyote were placed over the model's genitals for reasons of decency.

*Astronaut's secret porn mag which travelled to the moon goes on sale*



Credit: RR Auction

Cernan said, 'Stu and his colleagues got a hold of a Penthouse magazine from October, 1971.

"They pulled the centrefold out of the magazine. Stu had several copies of the coyote grabbing the road runner and yelling 'Beep Beep yuras!'

Credit: RR Auction

'He then taped those stickers to the centerfold directly over certain parts of the

photograph to make it 'G rate' and inserted it into our flight plan. We would open a page and up popped the centerfold.'

'It was a great gag and brought the whole practical joke full circle.'





*Astronaut's secret porn mag  
which travelled to the moon  
goes on sale*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## ATLANTA INTERSTATE FIRE: I-85 NB overpass collapses as crews battle massive fire

wsbtv.com

Live



Loading

0

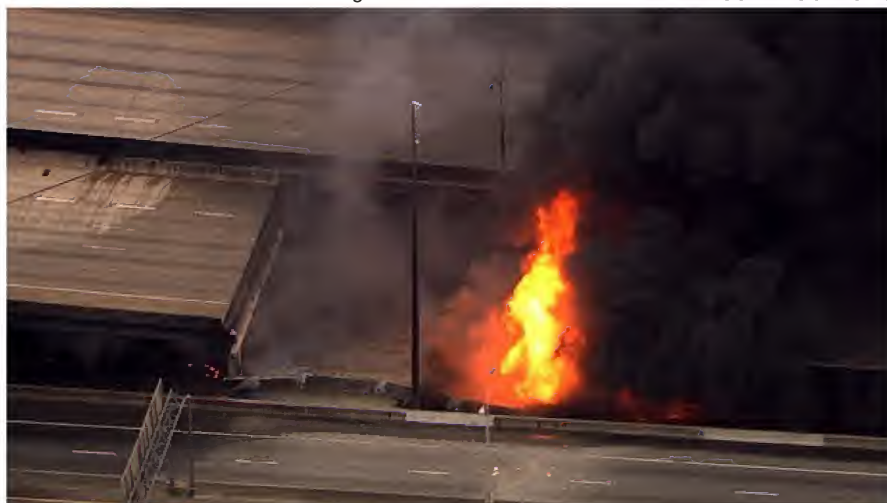
Share this with your friends!

<http://2wsb.tv/2nFbWdz>

**ATLANTA** - A large fire has caused an overpass on Interstate 85 to collapse.

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH LIVE COVERAGE NOW ON CHANNEL 2**

The massive blaze that was burning underneath I-85 NB near Piedmont Road has shut down several roads in northeast Atlanta.



share image

### QUICK FACTS

- I-85 overpass collapses due to fire
- No reported injuries
- Traffic at a standstill on I-85 in both directions

Witnesses say troopers were telling cars to turn around on the bridge because they were concerned about its integrity. Minutes later, the bridge collapsed.

The fire department says the fire is under control and no firefighters were injured.

**[Download the WSB-TV news app for breaking alerts on this story]**



### FOLLOW OUR MINUTE-BY-MINUTE COVERAGE BELOW:

**8:40 p.m.**

Atlanta police urge drivers to stay in place so officers can clear cars off the road.

FBI says this is not a criminal act and the fire was an accident. The fire is still being put out and will be investigated.

**8:10 p.m.**

Gov. Nathan Deal says plans are being formulated to handle rerouting traffic.

**8:00 p.m.**

Drivers are asked to turn around on the interstate.

**7:45 p.m.**

Trucks from the Atlanta airport use foam usually used for plane crashes to put out the fire.

**7:07 p.m.**

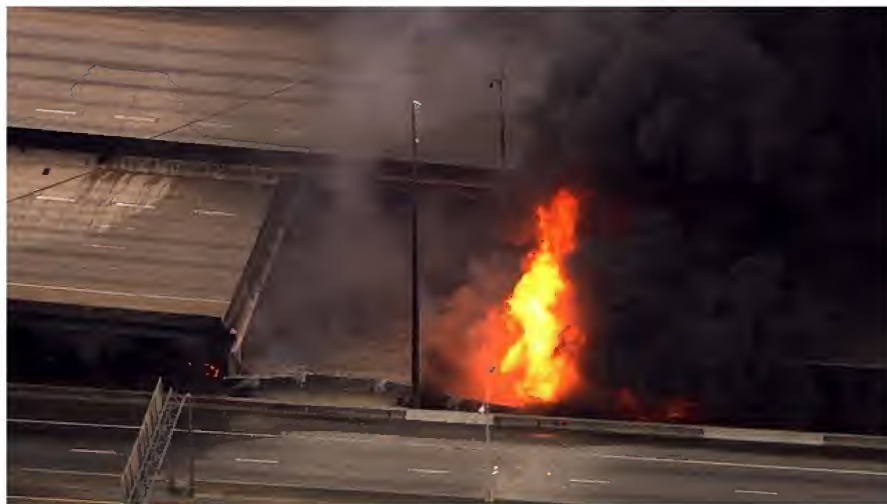
I-85 overpass collapses due to massive fire.

**7:00 p.m.**

Smoke seen for miles due to large fire burning near I-85.

**6:45 p.m.**

Witnesses report seeing smoke on I-85. They said troopers told them to turn around.



[share image](#)

Headline Goes Here

<http://2wsb.tv/2nFbWdz>

•  
© 2017 Cox Media Group.

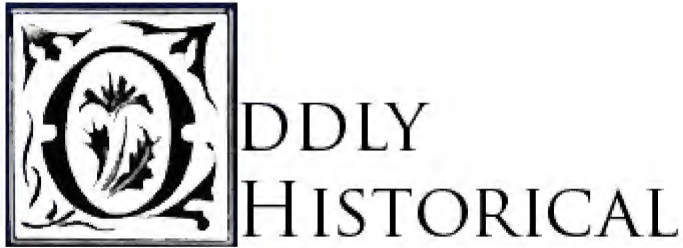
By using this website, you accept the terms of our Visitor Agreement and Privacy Policy, and understand your options regarding Ad Choices.

This station is part of Cox Media Group Television.

Learn about careers at Cox Media Group.



## Atlantis of the Sands: The Legendary Land of Riches

[oddlyhistorical.com](http://oddlyhistorical.com)

Atlantis of the Sands is a fabled lost city that supposedly existed once long ago along a busy trade route in Arabia. Laden with riches of red silver ore, splendors of large markets, and frankincense as valuable as gold, it may have been a huge emporium and stopping point for merchants. Grand legends told over the years have inspired searches that led to interesting discoveries. It now appears the lost city may have been more than just a legend after all.

Over the last several centuries, this mysterious place has attracted scholars and archaeologists who have attempted to discover its true location. Atlantis of the Sands acquired its nickname because, like its counterpart of the sea, there have been so many grand stories and people who have tried to find it. The original names for the legendary place are Ubar, Wabar or Iram.

Atlantis of the Sands is presumed to have been founded circa 3000 B.C. Located on the banks of a river that no longer exists, the city was a popular destination due to its vast trade markets, availability of resources and abundance of water. Legends describe large walls that boasted towering pillars. This “many towered city,” as described in the Koran, contained palaces and impressive temples. The Koran also attested to the uniqueness of the pillared city: “[Iram]...whose like had not been built in the entire land.”

Ranulph Fiennes wrote and published the book “Atlantis of the Sands: The Search for the Lost City of Ubar” in 1992, which helped to make it quite famous. Bedouin people who live in the deserts say that this city was lost in the Arabian sands when a huge catastrophic disaster occurred.

### In Search of Atlantis of the Sands



Archaeologists have attempted to locate the city of Ubar using ancient maps and descriptions from legendary tales. Several inconclusive sightings only served to further the mystery of whether or not the Atlantis of the Sands really existed.

Research into the city of Ubar places the time of its destruction at somewhere around 100 C.E. Many experts think that the people there may have discovered how to farm frankincense, which was highly valuable and produced in the southern Arabian Desert. This theory is supported by the idea that the supposed location for Ubar is along one of the well-known trade routes of the time.

## Bertram Thomas and T.E. Lawrence



There have been a number of explorers who have attempted to find the city, including Bertram Thomas, an Englishman. He embarked on an expedition in 1930 to locate Ubar, based on previous research by other explorers. It was Thomas' notes and research in large part that had an influence on the research of T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia. He was an archaeologist, military officer, and diplomat in the near east region. It may have been Lawrence who first described Ubar as Atlantis of the Sands. He had dreams of finding it, but he died unexpectedly in a motorcycle accident.

As Thomas began his exploration, he was told many stories about the area by Bedouin guides. They emphasized that it was dangerous to venture there. Additionally, they stated that the city had been destroyed because of the immorality of the people who had lived there, and that if they continued on their journey they would bring evil upon themselves. Thomas was not deterred by these stories, but he died before he could find the city of Ubar. He did, however, find old camel tracks.

## The Nicholas Clapp Team



In the late 1980s the film-maker and amateur archaeologist, Nicholas Clapp, led an expedition to find Ubar based on the work of Bertram Thomas. He utilized the latest research, NASA satellite images, and ancient maps created by previous explorers. Among the members of the Clapp expedition was Ranulph Fiennes, who subsequently wrote the Atlantis of the Sands book.

The NASA images of the Rub 'al Khali desert were able to see below the surface sand to identify well-worn roads that merchants on camelback had used for trade long ago. Interestingly, the tracks led to one place now called Shisr.

The Clapp team decided to investigate and they discovered an ancient structure underneath a 300 year old building. They determined that this was some type of fortress that stood at the heart of a settlement. Pottery, coins, and evidence of many ancient fire pits dotted the area. Research indicates the artifacts date back to at least 2800 BC.

The fortress may have served as the king's palace and a processing facility for frankincense. It may have also provided protection in times of danger. Eight walls circled the central building and a tower about 30 feet high stood at each corner. Clapp determined that this must be the ancient city of Ubar.

Unfortunately, a great deal of the fortress had fallen into a limestone sinkhole, and they were unable to excavate the rest of it. Fiennes surmised in his book that Ubar was really once a place called "Omanum Emporium" shown on ancient maps of Southern Arabia.

Like so many ancient legends, there are still more questions than answers. Has Atlantis of the Sands been found? Rather than having been smitten by God, did it fall into a giant sinkhole? For now, the legend is still alive, and only the sands of time will tell whether the vast desert will be relinquishing its secrets of this magnificent fabled city.

*For more strange mysteries from the past, visit [Historicmysteries.com](http://Historicmysteries.com).*

Sources:

Atlantis of the Sands

<http://www.islam101.com/archeology/ubar.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantis\\_of\\_the\\_Sands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantis_of_the_Sands)

[http://articles.latimes.com/1992-02-05/news/mn-1192\\_1\\_lost-city/2](http://articles.latimes.com/1992-02-05/news/mn-1192_1_lost-city/2)

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Auto shop devastated after 'priceless' 1960 Corvette stolen, burned

By Brandon Champion | [bchampion@mlive.com](mailto:bchampion@mlive.com) Follow on Twitter on March 07, 2017 at 6:25 PM, updated March 07, 2017 at 6:45 PM

[mlive.com](http://mlive.com)



636244943426590261-60-corvette-ignas.jpg

BELLAIRE, MI - A group of car enthusiasts who built a custom 1960 Corvette are devastated after their award-winning vehicle was stolen and burned in Detroit last month.

The "priceless" vehicle was a three-time National Corvette Show winner crafted at Dave's Collision and Car Repair in Bellaire.

Owner Dave Fischbach, a self-proclaimed car nut who been showing classic cars for more than 40 years, said the loss of the vehicle has been hard to take.

"Right now, I've lost my desire to show cars; mine or anyone else's," Fischbach said more than a week after the Corvette went missing in Southgate. "This has broken my spirit and passion for doing it.

Ninety percent of the work that Fischbach and his team do at his small business in Northern Michigan is collision and repair work, but they began working on the Corvette in 2012 and started showing it in 2013.

The cherry red, completely modernized Corvette featured a custom paint job, 480-horse LS3 engine, automatic transmission and digital gauges.

The car was a source of pride for the staff, Fischbach said. Especially because it was their first time dabbling into total car customization.

"Car guys, they all get it," he said. "All the guys who have done cars, even those that buy their cars. But the people who build something from the ground up. They just understand the time and effort, the bloody knuckles and the sore backs. It's not like losing a child, I'd never compare it to that, but for a car guy, it's pretty darn close."

The vehicle was stolen sometime on Feb. 21 or Feb. 22 while Fischbach was preparing to attend Detroit's Autorama for the first time.

Sometime in the night, the Corvette, a one-of-a-kind trailer that once belonged to auto racer Tony Stewart and a 2000 Jeep Wrangler, were all taken from the parking lot of the Southgate Holiday Inn where Fischbach was staying.

A few days later, photos surfaced of the burnt Corvette, which had apparently been cut into three pieces. The destroyed trailer was discovered abandoned.

"They must have taken it somewhere and stripped it for parts," Fischbach said.

The Southgate Police Department is currently investigating the case, which Fischbach said he greatly appreciates. The department did not immediately return calls for comment.

He added that it's impossible to put a price on the Corvette, especially because of all the awards it had won. He hopes that the social media exposure and press coverage the crime has attracted will help bring the culprits to justice.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Police ID man killed by bulldozer

By Michael Kransz | mkransz@mlive.com on February 27, 2017 at 2:17 PM

mlive.com

**CHESANING TWP., MI --** Police have identified the man who was run over and killed by the bulldozer he was working on as Harold Mallory.

The 70-year-old Chesaning Township man was tinkering on a bulldozer he owned for personal use when it shifted into a different gear and fatally struck him Sunday evening, Feb. 26, Saginaw County Sheriff's Office Lt. Miguel Gomez said.

Man run over, killed by bulldozer

Gomez said the incident occurred around 6:20 p.m. in a shed at Mallory's residence in the 10500 block of Ditch Road.

After the bulldozer ran Mallory over, it continued on into a field for about 300 yards before coming to a rest, Gomez said. He was declared dead at the scene.

Nobody was driving the machine, and it's unclear at this time how the bulldozer shifted gears.

An autopsy is being conducted to determine the exact cause of death.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Stuffed menagerie, complete with lions, recovered from UK burglar



Reuters April 5, 2017



A series of stuffed animals stolen by Jason Hopwood during a burglary in Wimbledon are seen after they were recovered, in an undated Metropolitan Police photograph handed out in London, Britain, April 5, 2017. Metropolitan Police handout via REUTERS

LONDON (Reuters) - A British burglar who stole 18 stuffed animals including lions, a giraffe and a snarling chimpanzee in a top hat and tie has received a suspended jail sentence, police said on Wednesday.

The loot, which also included a stuffed rhinoceros, a crocodile, a sloth, a zebra, a penguin and a pink flamingo, belonged to a

licensed taxidermy company and was worth about 100,000 pounds (\$124,850) in total, police said.

Jason Hopwood, 47, had pleaded guilty to burglary and fraudulent use of a registration plate. He was sentenced to 21 months in jail, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 200 hours of community service work.

The animals were stolen in March last year from a warehouse in Wimbledon, southwest London.

After receiving an anonymous tip-off, police found an abandoned van in Essex, east of London, with all 18 animals inside and sticky patches where fake number plates had been attached.

Hopwood was subsequently identified as the van's owner.

"Cataloguing and exhibiting the stolen items was a truly unique and memorable experience, and this is certainly an investigation which will stay with me for years to come," said Detective Constable Stuart Goss of London's Metropolitan Police.

(Reporting by Estelle Shirbon; editing by Stephen Addison)

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Austria: Man tries to enter courthouse with bag of roaches

yahoo.com

**AP** VIENNA (AP) — Security guards at an Austrian court might need to put up a sign at the screening gate to let the public know about another item prohibited on the premises — cockroaches.

State broadcaster ORF said Wednesday that security personnel in the western city of Linz turned away a man a day earlier after he tried to enter the court building with a sack full of the six-legged pests.

ORF did not say why the man had the roaches or what he planned to do with them.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Ban on Irish butter sparks fight in butter-loving Wisc.

Cara Lombardo, Associated Press

detroitnews.com

*Madison, Wis.* — Wisconsin resident Jean Smith snatches up entire stocks of her beloved Kerrygold Irish butter from stores when visiting family in Nebraska, thanks to an antiquated law in her dairy-obsessed state that bans it and any other butter that hasn't been graded for quality.

"We bring back 20 bricks or so," Smith said, noting she plops a tablespoon of the Ireland-made butter into her tea each morning. "It's creamier, it doesn't have any waxy taste and it's a richer yellow."

Tired of trekking across state lines to stock up, she and a handful of other Wisconsin butter aficionados filed a lawsuit this week challenging the law, saying local consumers and businesses "are more than capable of determining whether butter is sufficiently creamy, properly salted, or too crumbly." No government help needed, they say.

On the books since 1953, the law is strict: It requires butters to be rated on various measures — including flavor, body and color — by the federal government or people licensed as butter and cheese graders with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Wisconsin's grading scale dictates that the highest-graded butter must "possess a fine and highly pleasing butter flavor." Graders might describe a butter as "crumbly," "gummy" or "sticky," and its color as "mottled," "streaked" or "speckled."

Anybody convicted of selling unlabeled or ungraded butter is subject to a fine between \$100 and \$1,000 and six months in jail.

Wisconsin is the only state in the nation with such a stringent butter provision, which the lawsuit argues amounts to an unconstitutional "government-mandated 'taste test.'" The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, a conservative legal group representing the plaintiffs, said the grading process is subjective and doesn't protect consumers. The real issue, the group argues, is personal freedom.

Institute attorney Jake Curtis acknowledged it's a light-hearted case, "but economic liberty is a civil right."

Department spokesman Bill Cosh released a statement saying his consumer-protection agency has to uphold state law, but noted that enforcement "has been limited to notifying retailers of what the law says."

Ornua, the company that markets Kerrygold, isn't part of the lawsuit and declined to comment on the case. The Wisconsin Dairy Products Association didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Curtis said he's also heard from residents frustrated they can't buy their favorite Danish and Icelandic varieties near home. Smith said Kerrygold butter, which uses milk from grass-fed and hormone-free cows, occasionally shows up in stores near her home in Waukesha, but its availability is unpredictable.

"If I couldn't get Kerrygold, I would use the other butter," Smith said. "It just doesn't taste as good."

*Copyright 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Montana Dems Nominate A Banjo Player For Special Election -- And He Might Actually Win

huffingtonpost.com

**Rob Quist is an award-winning bluegrass and folk singer with a big following in Big Sky Country.**

By Alexander C. Kaufman



Musician and songwriter Rob Quist won the Democratic nomination on Sunday to fill the Montana congressional seat of Republican Ryan Zinke, who was sworn in last week as the new U.S. secretary of the interior.

Quist, 69, a mustachioed son of ranchers who rarely appears in photos without a cowboy hat, defeated two state legislators — Amanda Curtis and Kelly McCarthy — for the nomination and will face Republican nominee Greg Gianforte in Montana's May 25 special election. The race marks Quist's first campaign for

public office.

Yet his award-winning *oeuvre* of folk and bluegrass albums has made him “the best known name of the entire Democratic slate,” according to Daily Kos.

“His music is quite political,” Bonni Quist said of her husband in an interview with The Huffington Post on Monday. She said his 2016 song, “.45 Caliber Man,” was one of her favorites: “It’s going to take a .45 caliber man, meaning it’s going to take somebody with a strong will to stand up for the values of the middle-class America.”

Quist was in meetings all day with Democratic Party officials, his wife said. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

For weeks, Quist has been barnstorming Montana, urging scattered Democrats to form central committees in counties without one, according to KTVH, a local NBC affiliate.

He’s running in part on his public service record. Quist served three four-year terms on the Montana Arts Council, to which two governors appointed him. In that position, he lobbied to keep funding for music, theater and arts programs in the state’s public schools and developed an anti-bullying curriculum. He also served as the state Department of Commerce’s cultural ambassador, traveling to Japan several times over his three-year tenure. He currently works as a spokesman and fundraiser for the Montana Food Bank Network.

Quist rose to prominence as a founding member of the Mission Mountain Wood Band. The country-rock fivesome, sometimes abbreviated M2WB, helped start the University of Montana’s annual Aber Day kegger, a party that won a spot in Guinness Book of World Records for being the biggest benefit kegger.

Late Monday, the Republican Party nominated Gianforte, a software entrepreneur who recently lost a costly governor’s race to incumbent Democrat Steve Bullock. He beat out six other candidates, including two current state lawmakers.

“We don’t need to send [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi a court musician who’s advocating for a socialized, one-payer medical system,” Gianforte told The Associated Press earlier Monday.

The tone of Quist’s political platform rings closer to that of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), the insurgent progressive he backed in the contentious Democratic presidential primary, than to that of Hillary Clinton, who won the nomination.

"The Democratic National Committee sent [Sanders] to the sidelines in favor of Hillary Clinton," Quist told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle in January, noting that Democrats lack a grassroots network like Republican tea party groups to rally voters to the polls. "They tried to control it from top down."

The election could be seen as a microcosm of the larger fight playing out in national Democratic politics. The race for Democratic National Committee chair pitted Sanders-backed Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) against former Labor Secretary Tom Perez, who got support from former President Barack Obama and establishment party leaders. Perez won, but named Ellison deputy chair in a bid to unify the party after it was devastated in the November election.

"The Montana special election is one of the first special elections following the Trump takeover/inauguration," Franke Wilmer, a professor of political science at Montana State University, told the progressive blog Down With Tyranny. "It will absolutely be viewed by the whole country, but especially those in elected office, to figure out which way the political winds are blowing as a measure of Trump's eroded or continued support."

Like Sanders, Quist supports a single-payer healthcare system. He stumps for health care reform with a personal story: A pre-existing condition disqualified him for insurance until former President Barack Obama passed the Affordable Care Act, and he was forced to access Social Security benefits early to pay out of pocket for gall bladder surgery, the Daily Chronicle reported.

Quist opposes banning abortion. In an interview with the Daily Chronicle, he told the story of being an unemployed songwriter when his wife became pregnant with their daughter, Halladay. She lost her job as a flight attendant after United Airlines decided pregnant women could not fly, leaving the pair scrambling to figure out how to afford a child.

"This was a heavy time for us, it couldn't have come at a worse time," Quist said in the interview. "We made the decision to have this child, and my daughter is now the light of my life. I don't know what I would do without her. But on the other hand, I wouldn't want the government getting in the middle of that decision. That was a decision we needed to make personally."

Bonni Quist said she was "surprised he shared that" personal story, saying she never seriously considered terminating the pregnancy.

"It was more about the fact that middle-class Americans are strapped with difficult financial decisions every day," she told HuffPost. "Choosing one way or another could tip the scales. That's why it's important to us."

Quist also considers gun ownership "a way of life," but backs restrictions on assault weapons.

"They're only meant to kill people," Quist told the Chronicle. "So maybe there should be some legislation to register those types of things."

Quist's interests may overlap somewhat with those of first lady Melania Trump. During a radio appearance in January, he played his official campaign song, a folk ballad he originally wrote to respond to cyberbullying his wife endured. The first lady has said she plans to make combatting bullying a top priority in the White House.

"Bullies are not just on the playground, they're everywhere through life," Quist said of his song, titled "I Will Stand Up For You."

"I didn't really have to change too much to be a campaign song," he said.

To be sure, Quist faces an uphill battle. Montana's sole district is 87 percent white and non-Hispanic, well above the 62 percent national average, NBC News reported. The district is also older than the national average, with 44 percent of the population aged 45 or older, compared to 40 percent nationally.

"Think the far-left Quist has a shot in this red state after Montanans have rejected House Democrats in eleven straight elections?" GOP operative Jack Pandol asked in a blog post on the Republican National Congressional Committee website that called Quist "to the left of even Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer."

"Look us in the eye and tell us with a straight face," Pandol wrote.

How will Donald Trump's first 100 days impact YOU? Subscribe, choose the community that you most identify with or want to learn more about and we'll send you the news that matters most once a week throughout Trump's first 100 days in office. [Learn more](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Surgeons remove 915 coins swallowed by Thai sea turtle

yahoo.com

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/surgeons-remove-915-coins-swallowed-thai-sea-turtle-120848354.html>

**AP** Associated Press March 6, 2017

Assoc  
Pres



In this Friday, March 3, 2017 photo, the female green green turtle nicknamed "Bank" swims in a pool at Sea Turtle Conservation Center n Chonburi Province, Thailand. Veterinarians operated Monday, March 6, 2017, on "Bank," removing less than 1,000 coins from the endangered animal. Her indigestible diet was a result of many tourists seeking good fortune tossing coins into her pool over many years in the eastern town of Sri Racha. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

BANGKOK (AP) — Tossing coins in a fountain

for luck is a popular superstition, but a similar belief brought misery to a sea turtle in Thailand from whom doctors have removed 915 coins.

Veterinarians in Bangkok operated Monday on the 25-year-old female green sea turtle nicknamed "Bank," whose indigestible diet was a result of many tourists seeking good fortune tossing coins into her pool over many years in the eastern town of Sri Racha.

Many Thais believe that throwing coins on turtles will bring longevity.

Typically, a green sea turtle has a lifespan of around 80 years, said Roongroje Thanawongnuwech, dean of Chulalongkorn University's veterinary faculty. It is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The loose change eventually formed a heavy ball in her stomach weighing 5 kilograms (11 pounds). The weight cracked the turtle's ventral shell, causing a life-threatening infection.

Five surgeons from Chulalongkorn University's veterinary faculty patiently removed the coins over four hours while "Bank" was under general anesthesia. The stash was too big to take out through the 10-cm (4-inch) incision they had made, so it had to be removed a few coins at a time. Many of them had corroded or partially dissolved.

"The result is satisfactory. Now it's up to Bank how much she can recover," said Pasakorn Briksawan, one of the surgical team. While recovering in Chulalongkorn University's animal hospital, the turtle will be on a liquid diet for the next two weeks.

Bank was brought in to veterinarians by the navy, which found her ailing in her seaside hometown.

It was only after a detailed 3D scan that veterinarians pinpointed the weighty and unexpected problem. As well as the coins they also found 2 fish hooks, which were also removed today.

The surgery team leader said Monday that when she discovered the cause of the turtle's agony she was furious.

"I felt angry that humans, whether or not they meant to do it or if they did it without thinking, had caused harm to this turtle," said Nantarika Chansue, head of Chulalongkorn University's veterinary medical aquatic animal research center.

Thai media began publicizing the turtle's tale last month after she was found, and in response, some 15,000 baht (\$428) in donations was raised from the public to pay for her surgery.

---

Associated Press writer Kaweewit Kaewjinda in Bangkok contributed to this story.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Bear spotted near Southington schools

Tuesday, February 28 2017 10:19 AM EST

wfsb.com

**EYEWITNESS**  
**NEWS**  
Channel 3

**NEWS UPDATE**

**wfsb.com**

Posted: Feb 28, 2017 7:19 AM PST Updated: Feb 28, 2017 7:19 AM PST  
By Joseph Wenzel IV, News Editor

Two schools in Southington were placed in "Secure School Mode" after a black bear was spotted nearby on Tuesday morning.

According to Southington Superintendent Tim Connellan, there was a bear sighting

A photograph of a light-colored horse, possibly a foal or young horse, running across a paved road. The horse is captured in mid-stride, moving from left to right. The background shows a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

near DePaolo Middle School. Connellan added that the animal was moving in the direction on Spring Lake at the time.

The "Secure School Modes" at Joseph A. Depaolo Middle and Hatton Elementary schools were brief and as of 10 a.m., the schools were on normal operations.

Police informed school officials that the bear was moving eastward in the direction of Rogers Orchards and "away from any of any schools."

An email was sent out to parents on Tuesday morning.

To check out other animal sightings in Connecticut backyards, [click here](#).

*Copyright 2017 WFSB (Meredith Corporation). All rights reserved.*

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Did this grandmother capture spirits of Beatles legends John Lennon and George Harrison?

express.co.uk



George Harrison on a piece of silver paper.

**A MEDIUM captured a Beatles reunion when she snapped what she thinks appears to be the faces of dead legends John Lennon and**

PUBLISHED: 00:00, Tue, Feb 7, 2017 | UPDATED: 11:43, Tue, Feb 7, 2017



*Mercury*

Christine Hamlett invites spirits to reveal themselves

Grandmother-of-12 Christine Hamlett, 60, invites spirits to reveal themselves in reflective substances before taking photos - and claims to have been visited by the ghosts of Princess Diana, Elvis, Michael Jackson and Winston Churchill.

Her method of reaching out to the spirit world via camera is a form of instrumental transcommunication (ITC)

- the use of electrical equipment to make contact with those who have died.

And now the retired mother-of-four believes she may have had a joint visitation as her latest snap appears to show the two slightly overlapping faces of John and George - complete with iconic bushy brows and dark mop tops.

Ms Hamlett, of Northwich, Cheshire, said: "I use silver origami paper - you have to pin it to a hard surface so I use a tray - and then I ask the spirits to show themselves and take a photo.

"I don't invite any particular ghosts or spirits to reveal themselves. I want any spirit to have the opportunity. I don't see who it is until I look at the pictures afterwards.

"This time as soon as I looked at the photo, I instantly thought it looked just like John and George.

"I looked at it another three or four times thinking 'is it them, isn't it?' It's always good to doubt and question yourself.

"It is a gorgeous photo. I think the faces are so clear. I have no idea why they would chose to appear. I have no connection to them, apart from being a big fan, but there they are.

"It's not the first time I've been visited by celebrities. I also have pictures of Princess Diana and Michael Jackson but it is rare.

"Most of the spirits that come through are just everyday people and then I'll get the odd pet. I have a lovely photo of a little dog. Sometimes you do get some really weird things."

When Ms Hamlett takes a photo of a spirit or ghost unknown to her, she posts it on her social media and said she has had people get in touch to identify their lost loved ones.



Mercury

Ms Hamlett uses silver origami paper and then she asks the spirits to reveal themselves

Having lost her dad Dom Pickering in her twenties and her sister Carolyn Pickering three years ago, Ms Hamlett says the idea of a life after death does bring her some comfort.

And while the gran believes it is always good to keep questioning the existence of an afterlife, she is certain that if there is one, John and George will be doing what they did best.

She said: "Believing in something after death does bring me some comfort but, of course, you never stop missing the person.

"And even though I can feel a connection to my dad, sister and other spirits, I'd still say I'm only 99.9 per cent sure of an afterlife. It is always good to keep questioning otherwise you stop progressing.



Mercury

Ms Hamlett does not ask any particular ghosts or spirits to reveal themselves

"I don't expect everyone to believe that I can capture pictures of spirits. I don't do it to try to prove it to people, I do it to prove it to myself.

"If there is an afterlife, I'm sure John and George are doing exactly what they did best in this life - making music and inspiring others."

The medium, who used to have her own TV show, has felt a connection with the afterlife for as long as she can remember - often seeing ghostly figures and communing with spirits from beyond the grave.

But Ms Hamlett, who also has a passion for finding celebrity doppelgangers from past lives, delved into developing her abilities after losing her dad to a stroke in her early twenties.

Her father's death made her more determined than ever to find out whether there was something after death so she visited a spiritual church where a medium gave her the sign she was looking for.

Ms Hamlett said: "I have memories for as long as I can remember of having these feelings, feelings that something or someone was there.

"When my dad died, even though I had always felt there was something after life, I wanted to know for sure.

"I went to a spiritual church and I said to my dad in my head 'just give me something, a sign, just tell me you love me and I'll know'.



Mercury

"And then at the end of the evening, the medium turned to me and told me there was a gentleman that just wanted me to know he loved me.

"That was it, I knew then it had to come from my dad because I hadn't told anybody that thought. After that sign I started to develop my abilities."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Experts have revealed latest weapon against flooding - and it's very unusual

By Adam Aspinall 15:53, 23 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Environment officials have unveiled their latest weapon against flooding – beavers.

Experts at the Forestry Commission are considering releasing the mammals to combat floods.

Trials have shown that beavers can create dams capable of retaining about 1,000 tonnes of water which would otherwise cascade down to villages.

Officials now want to reintroduce the animals into a brook above Lydbrook in Gloucestershire to protect the village which was badly flooded in 2012.

As well as holding back water, the beavers are also said to increase biodiversity in woodland areas with some claiming their activities can help many rare species thrive.

Forestry Commission chiefs have invited expert Derek Gow to tell residents in Upper Lydbrook and Lydbrook how they believe putting beavers into Greathough Brook in the Forest could help halt water gushing down the hillsides.

Mr Gow was a leading figure in the Devon Beaver Trial which found that over the course of four years beavers created 14 major dam systems on a 200 metre water course.

He said: “For years, the whole idea of reintroducing beavers has been bogged down by myth and nonsense.

“It’s not as though we are looking at reintroducing a Tyrannosaurus rex that eats children.

“Beavers have been managing water for millions of years; they’re adapted to do a far better job than us.

“We can no longer pay to maintain flood walls and flood defences so beavers are a rational option when it comes to water management and flood control.”

Officials at Forestry Commission declined to comment or give details of the scheme saying they wanted to talk to local residents and parish councillors first.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Birds blamed for fire at Massachusetts water treatment plant

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press March 29, 2017

**PEABODY, Mass. (AP)** — A fire that knocked a Massachusetts city's water treatment plant out of commission has been blamed on birds.

Peabody Fire Lt. Chris Dowling tells The Salem News (<http://bit.ly/2nzQdnw> ) it appears the March 13 blaze was caused by nesting birds that chewed the insulation on an electrical wire on an exterior light fixture.

That exposed the bare conductors in the wiring, which heated up the nesting material and ignited the roof.

The plant's roof was destroyed, and there was heavy damage to one side of the building. Some equipment used in the operation of the facility was also damaged.

The plant remains inoperable and city officials say it may be a year before it's up and running again.

The city has plans in place to make sure residents have clean water.

---

Information from: The Salem (Mass.) News, <http://www.salemnews.com>

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

# Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial And WWII Memorial Defaced With Bizarre Conspiracy Theories

dailycaller.com

**THE DAILY CALLER**  
NEWS FOUNDATION

Daily Caller News Foundation

## Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial And WWII Memorial Defaced With Bizarre Conspiracy Theories

Ted Goodman

2:23 PM  
02/21/2017  
5493996



National Park Service official looks towards Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Feb. 21, 2017: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF

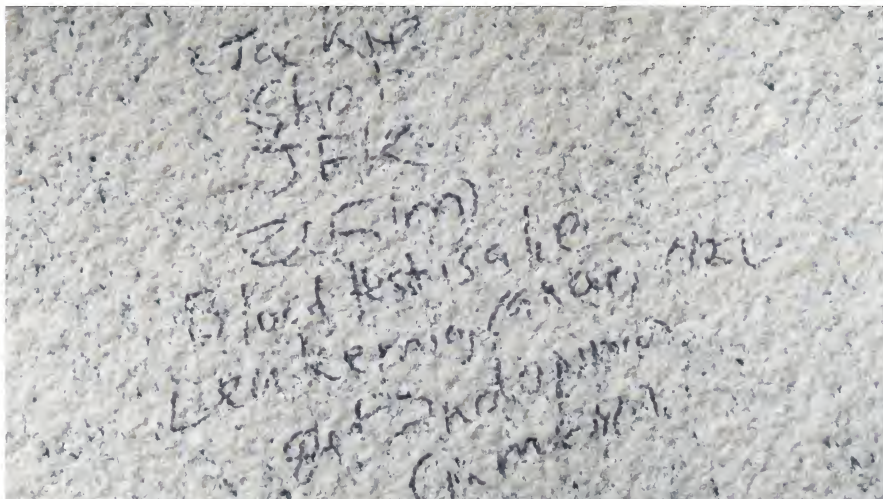
The Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and World War II Memorial were defaced by what authorities believe was a single vandal over Presidents Day weekend in

Washington, D.C.

Officials with the U.S. Park Police and National Park Service said that they believe a lone individual committed the criminal act late Saturday night with a permanent marker.

“In the earliest hours of Sunday morning, around 1:00 or 2:00 am, a park police officer on patrol here at the Lincoln memorial discovered some graffiti,” Sergeant Anna Rose, with the U.S. Park Police, said at a Tuesday morning press conference.

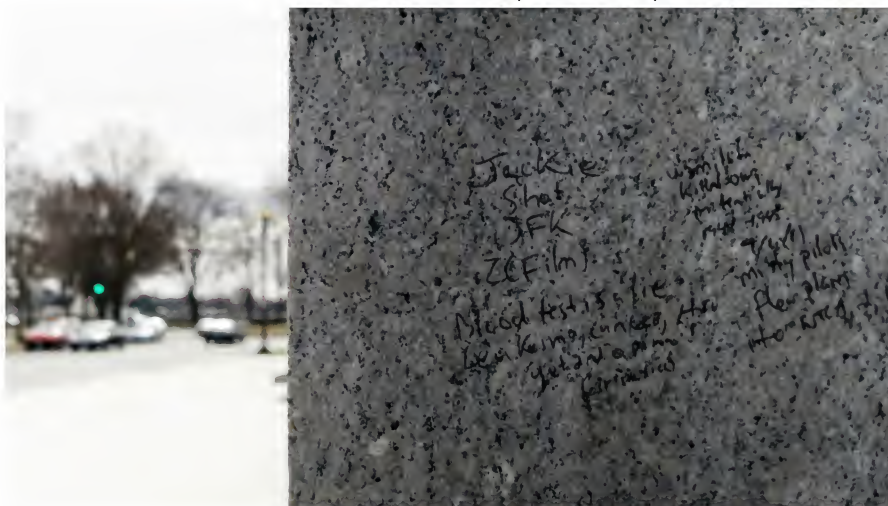
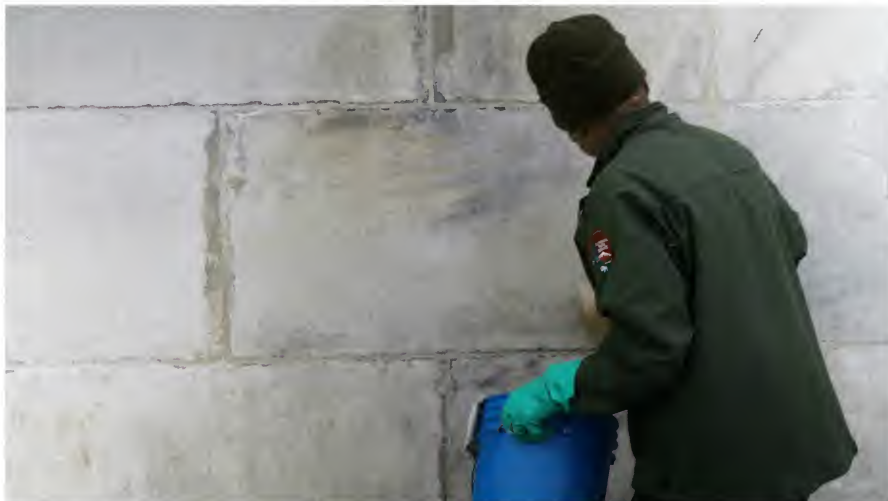
Two locations at the Lincoln Memorial, a spot on the World War II memorial, the north face of the Washington monument and an electrical box on the corner of 15th and Jefferson Drive SW were damaged by the vandal or vandals.



The bizarre messages alluded to the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy and the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The same message seemed to be copied at each location, an additional reason authorities believe it's probably one man.

“Jackie shot JFK,” was a recurring message at the sites where the graffiti was still visible. “9/11 /01,



*Defaced side of the Lincoln Memorial: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF (First Site)**The Park Service quickly began work to repair the damaged Lincoln Memorial: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF (Second Site)**The culprit defaced the side of the WWII Memorial: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF (Third Site)**Vandals defaced the north side of the Washington Monument: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF (Fourth Site)*

misty pilots flew planes into WTC 1, 2, P, F," another message read.

The bizarre messages also refer to leukemia, cancer and HIV, stating that "Blood test is a lie" and "Get a second opinion."

Rose asked the public for assistance with the investigation, asking people to call 202-610-7500 to report any information that could help solve the case.

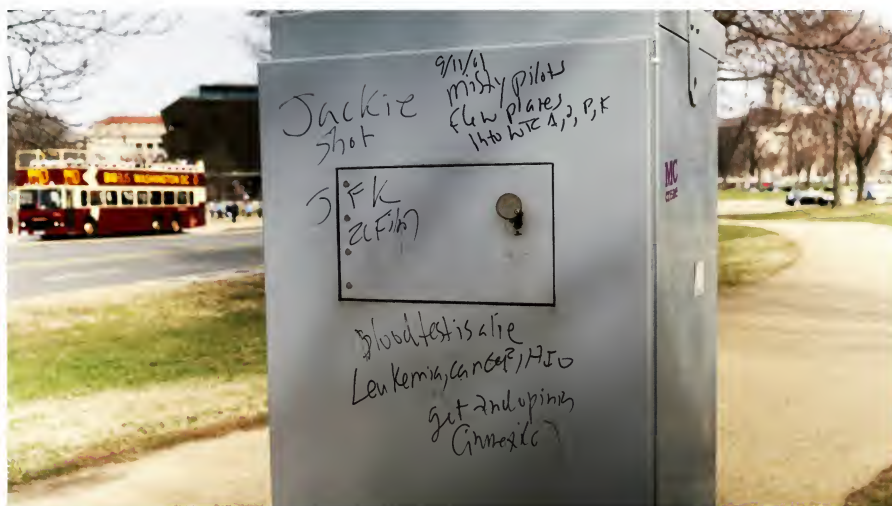
In 2013, a woman was charged with throwing green paint on to the Lincoln Memorial, but that charge was dropped a month later. In the fall of 2016, vandals defaced the North Dakota column of the WWII Memorial.

"Any sort of vandalism for any reason at any of these sites, is very disheartening," Mike Litterest, the spokesperson for the National Mall, said.

"It's one of the reasons we have a memorial preservation crew, and we have the technology. The crew is trained in the removal of all different types of vandalism, including graffiti," he explained.

The two agencies involved do not believe that the investigation will lead to the involvement of additional agencies. Officials said that they have camera footage, and that they hope the footage will be of additional help in solving the crime.

© Copyright 2010 - 2017 | The Daily Caller



The vandal wrote on a utility box at the corner of Jefferson and 15th SW: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF (Fifth Site)



Sgt. Anna Rose with the United States Park Police addresses the media Tuesday morning: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF



The Washington Monument can be seen from the utility box where bizarre conspiracy theories were written on a utility box: Ted Goodman/TheDCNF

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'Black Monk' poltergeist caught on camera at Britain's most haunted house

By David Keane 05:27, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 13:51, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Ghost hunter catches 'Black Monk' poltergeist on camera at Britain's most haunted house

**Kyle Fowler, 28, says he was 'almost possessed' by the infamous 'Black Monk' while investigating 30 East Drive in Pontefract**



A ghost hunter says he was almost 'possessed' by an infamous poltergeist in Britain's most haunted house.

Kyle Fowler claims he caught the 'Black Monk' on camera just hours before he 'took over' him.

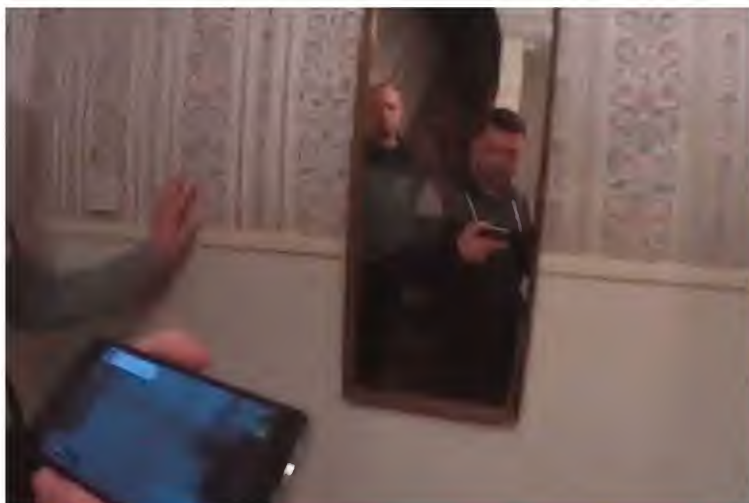
The 28-year-old visited the house of the 'most violent poltergeist haunting in Europe' last week with Psychic Medium Lillyanne, her husband

Jack Bairstow and son, Ashley Flay.

The house, 30 East Drive in Pontefract, West Yorks, was the site where the Pritchard family were allegedly subjected to years of torment by the so-called 'Black Monk of Pontefract'.

Footage filmed during the investigation shows the group come downstairs where Kyle claims their camera picked up the hooded face stood on the stairway behind them in a mirror's reflection.

Later that evening the team were practising 'mirror scrying', staring into the glass and inviting spirits to show themselves, when Kyle believes he fell into a trance-like state under the influence of the Black Monk.



Comment Below

Kyle, from Leeds, West Yorks, said: "The figure that appears us on the stairs is right where the Black Monk has been seen lots of times before. There is the shape of a hood and a face.

"Later in the evening we were mirror scrying in what was the parents' bedroom. This involved staring through the mirror with a candle underneath your face and asking the spirit to show themselves.

"My eyes went black and my face aged so that it looked like an old man. It was like the face of an old man had come over mine.



"Ashley became quite concerned as I was just staring into the mirror. Ashley was calling my name but I was quite zoned out and was not responding. This went on for quite a few minutes.

"Eventually Ashley touched my shoulder and called me in for protection. I don't know what would have happened if he hadn't done this.

"I didn't feel I was being taken over, but I could see his face and felt transfixed. At the time I didn't feel scared but I don't know what could have happened.

"It could have taken a different direction. I could have been possessed. I suppose if you don't have someone with you to pull you out like Ashley did then you could be possessed.

"I think it possibly was the Black Monk as it was quite demonic and I had black eyes when it happened. It was very dark and not very nice.

"Ashley could see it in the mirror too and it didn't look like me at all anymore."



Lillyanne said: "After I left, Kyle was doing the mirror scrying and he had an old man cover his face. It appeared like a horrendous man overshadowed him.

"Kyle went into a trance at one point. We thought that maybe the spirit have taken over him.

"I was not too happy about this as it can produce chaos if there is not an experience medium there to oversee it. Thankfully my son Ashley was still there.

"It was getting close to a possession - it's very similar. People should have a qualified medium there because it's like possession - the spirit can take over you. It could possess you and then anything could happen.

"Any entity that comes into any body could cause cardiac arrest. Or it could cause you to smash the place.

"It is not nice at all. It's very scary. Luckily it didn't get to that stage."



After arriving at around 8.30pm, the group held a séance at around 10pm and stayed in the notorious haunted house until well gone midnight.

The ghoulish apparition appears in the same spot that the Black Monk, also known as Mr Nobody or 'Fred', is said to regularly stand and was where 14-year-old Diane Pritchard was dragged by an invisible hand.

Lillyanne said: "I didn't have a plan when we went in [the house]. I never go in with a plan, I

like to just take it as it comes.

"I would describe it as an oppressive atmosphere in the house. There are several spirits lurking in that house, not just one or two.

"There was lots and lots of activity, we didn't know where to start. There were some awful smells that hit you straight away. We all smelt it, it was not nice.

"Then there was the face that appeared on the stairs behind us. It looked like a hooded figure, and was where the Black Monk has been frequently seen.



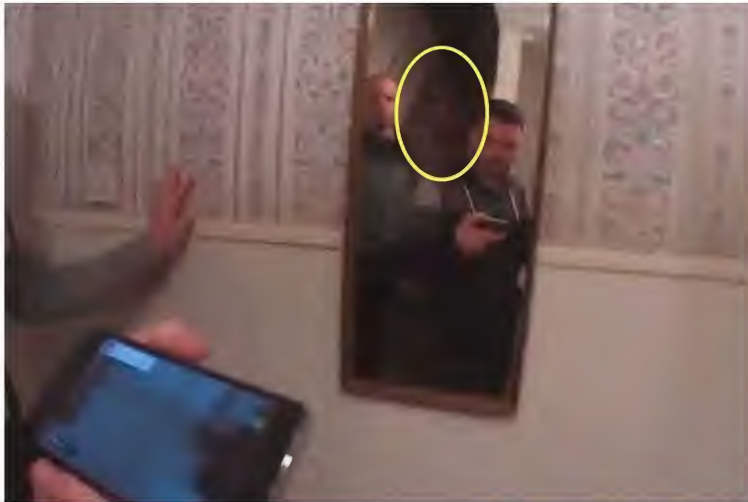
"I'm a medium so I'm used to the sort of things that happened there but for general members of the public it would have frightened the life out of them.

"When we held the séance, I antagonised the energy. I called them down and goaded the monk.

"To be honest there were numerous energies that were looking at me and following me. I know I had to bring them to the table to interact with us.

"While doing the s ance there was a picture taken of me that looked very creepy. I don't look like that in real life at all. But that's how my face turned out in the picture.

"People had seen the shadow fall on my face around the table and its just brilliant to capture it on camera.



"For me it's natural to capture things like this on camera as the spirits are powerful. I would have been more disappointed not to capture anything.

"It's not all hype. It's a well known house but there is certainly something there. I absolutely loved it.

"We are going back in a few weeks and will do a live stream from there so people can watch it as it unfolds. We will be doing other haunted houses in a similar way too."

Kyle said: "It doesn't scare me, I'm just really intrigued by it all. I really enjoy investigations like this. Lillyanne is very experienced and we make a good team so that makes me feel much more comfortable.

"We are hoping to go back to see what will happen next time."

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Blackley Hall and Old Shay's Ghost

[lancashirefolk.com](http://lancashirefolk.com)

Lancashire folklore, legends, ghosts, local history

Posted on February 22, 2017 by LancashireFolk



*blackley-hall*

Blackley Hall was a large and ancient manor house dating from Tudor times but by 1760 it was no longer used as one large family home. Separate parts of it were rented out by the Scholes family, who owned it. The building, which stood where the Rochdale and Middleton roads now cross, was torn down around 1815 but even though it cannot be visited, its story is included because the ghost who haunted there was so famous.

Early in the 18th century there was a rumour that the lately deceased wife of one of the tenants, Mrs Shay, had been murdered and

the assumption was that her husband, Old Shay, was her murderer. Soon it was also rumoured that the ghost of 'Old Shay's wife', as she was commonly known, was haunting the hall, rattling crockery and door handles and walking the rooms at night accompanied by her small black dog.

One of the tenants of Blackley Hall was Mr Nicolson, a schoolmaster, who ran a school in part of the hall and lived there in a room himself. He was the first to report having seen the ghost but in the years that followed many people living nearby claimed to have seen Old Shay's wife, both in the hall and outside in the grounds. The reports continued until 1815, when the hall was sold to a Mr Grant, who demolished the whole of the dilapidated building in order to erect a print shop. This business passed from hand to hand but never prospered and in 1839, the print shop itself was demolished.

Old Shay's wife was never seen again... but she was certainly blamed for other hauntings as time went on.

In 1852, the Manchester Courier carried a story about an 'extraordinary superstition' at Blackley, describing how the village people believed Old Shay's ghost had taken up residence in a very old building next to the White Lion pub. The Whitehead family had lived there for almost a year but during the last six weeks they had been troubled by strange noises; a clucking hen, or a far-off train whistle and, in particular, a screaming sound which occurred whenever anyone stood on a specific flagstone in the kitchen. This noise was so disturbing that Mr Whitehead felt compelled to uproot the flagstone and start digging – and several feet down he discovered a large jug, which turned out to be filled with quicklime and bones. Naturally, the bones were assumed to be human.

As neighbours heard about the disturbances, they offered theories to explain the jug full of bones, some suggesting it must have been the hidden remains of a murder victim but most assuming that the ghost of Old Shay's wife must have taken up residence in the house. Indeed, a certain Mr Horrox, who had once lived in the house, said that he had twice seen the ghost of a woman. Other neighbours contributed similar stories and some said that the house had been haunted for many decades.



Spurred on by the beliefs of his neighbours, Mr Whitehead continued to dig up his floor, even removing the cellar steps in the process until a very large hole had been excavated measuring some sixteen feet long and five feet deep. Despite his herculean efforts, nothing more was found. However, the unearthly disturbances continued, including one occasion when a boiling kettle was moved from the fire to the middle of the room and left on the floor.

The story spread abroad and someone even called in an astrologer from Manchester, who brought his crystal ball and magical texts, but his 'investigation' served no purpose other than the entertainment of the many curious onlookers.

Oddly, the newspaper report stated that Mr Whitehead himself was not at all frightened by the occurrences and was determined to find an explanation for them. However, that did not dissuade the neighbours who still claimed that it was surely all the work of a boggart, or Old Shay's wife herself.

The report ends by commenting that the story was attracting visitors to Blackley from far and wide, and local pubs were making a fortune...

## About LancashireFolk

Lancashire folklore, legends, ghosts, local history - author of 'Lancashire Folk' published by Schiffer Publishing Winter 2015 - 9780764349836 £17.50. 'Manchester Folk', covering Greater Manchester, coming in 2017!

## 2 Responses to *Blackley Hall and Old Shay's Ghost*

1.

Andysays:

February 23, 2017 at 7:39 am

Is the place where the Rochdale and Middleton roads cross near to the White Lion Pub? Being from Middleton, I'm familiar with the New White Lion which was, I think, built on the site of the White Lion in Blackley.

o

LancashireFolksays:

February 23, 2017 at 10:08 am

I confess I am not sure, but the story certainly suggests that the Hall and the pub were relatively close to each other.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man 'possessed by the devil' arrives at Brazilian hospital with bullet wound

By Kara O'Neill 15:26, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 19:08, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Blood-soaked man 'possessed by devil' arrives at hospital like zombie with gaping gunshot wound to his face**

**WARNING: DISTRESSING FOOTAGE.** The man stumbled into the medical centre in Brazil after reportedly being shot in the face



Disturbing footage has captured the moment a man 'walked like a zombie' into a hospital in Brazil with a horrific bullet wound to the mouth.

Staff at the medical centre feared the man had been 'possessed by the devil' after his body appeared contorted as he screamed for assistance.

In the graphic footage, the man had blood dripping from an alleged bullet wound in his mouth, although it is not clear how he suffered the injury.

After arriving at the hospital, he was unable to straighten his body and walked around with his back almost bent double.



His eyes appeared wide and dark, and he spoke in a loud, raspy voice as he reportedly attempted to explain his situation to staff.

But the terrified employees were too frightened to approach the man.

In the clip, one member of staff appeared to reach out towards the man, before jumping backwards when he suddenly lurched towards him.



Other doctors and nurses in the background were also seen running away from the patient.

It is not clear if the man was eventually treated by the hospital, or whether he suffered any lasting injuries as a result of his bullet wound.

A caption alongside the footage claims the man's jaw was broken, but this has not been verified by any medical records.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Body Found in Closet at Hollywood's Magic Castle

12/31/1969

hollywoodreporter.com

10:19 PM PST 2/24/2017 by Patrick Shanley



Courtesy of Magic Castle Inc.

**The LAPD is currently investigating the scene in which the body of a man with a bag over his head was found by an employee of the magic-themed club.**

The body of a man was found in a closet at the Magic Castle in Hollywood Friday night.

The man was discovered with a bag over his head, dressed only in his underwear, by an employee of the Castle, according to reports by *TMZ*. The death is being investigated by the LAPD as a possible suicide. "Deputies are on the scene investigating at this time," LAPD officer Aareon Jefferson told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

In 2015, the Magic Castle's founder, Milt Larsen, and his niece, Erika Larsen, the current president of the Academy of Magical Arts that runs the storied membership club, were embroiled in a legal battle over the 5.5 percent royalty from annual food and beverage sales at the club and in 2016 a class-action lawsuit was filed that alleged the management of the club had not paid at least one hundred hospitality workers' wages in full.

The Magic Castle is famous as a haven for magicians from around the world, offering intimate magic shows for members and guests of the Castle.

A request for comment from the Magic Castle was not immediately returned.

© 2017 The Hollywood Reporter  
All rights reserved.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'Tyne booze cruise' plans slammed by police

By Sunita Patel-Carstairs, News Reporter

sky.com

Plans for thousands of people to float on inflatables down the River Tyne on a "booze cruise" have been criticised by police.

The event is planned for 1 July, starting in Newburn, Newcastle, and ending three-and-a-half hours later on the Quayside.

Publicised on Facebook as the River Tyne Booze Cruise, organisers say an estimated 3,000 revellers are expected to take part in the event.

They insist the idea is not a hoax, asserting it is based on "a tradition in Finland called Kaljakellunta" and posted a video reportedly showing scores of people taking part in the 2015 Finnish event.

Also known as "beer floating", it is an annual festival during which people float down the River Vantaa in dinghies and rafts, around 16 miles from the Finnish capital Helsinki, in Uusimaa province.

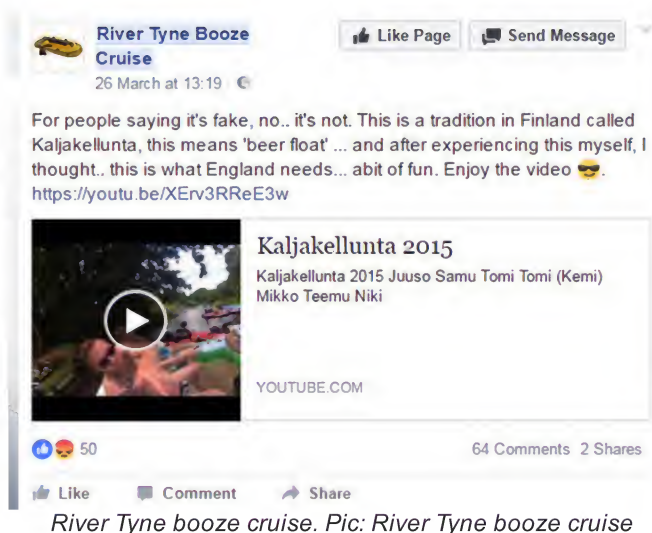
Its popularity has grown since it was first staged in 1997, according to a website about the event which reportedly has no official organiser.

"Kaljakellunta has been criticised heavily for the mess it leaves behind every year, as the cleaning usually falls to the councils of Helsinki and Vantaa," says the website.

"Last year the councils estimated that the cleaning bill was over €40,000 (£34,500) in total.

"However, since Kaljakellunta has no official organiser, it is practically impossible for authorities to ban the event," it adds.

It would appear organisers of the Tyne event want to recreate the gathering in Newcastle.



River Tyne Booze Cruise organisers put a video of the 2015 Finnish event on Facebook

Their Facebook post, shared almost 10,000 times, includes the message: "1 rule: Stay in your craft at all times to eliminate accidents.

"Armbands / life jackets highly recommended."

It has attracted a lot of interest, with nearly 16,000 comments and users tagging friends in this section of the post, suggesting "this would be a laugh" and "we should do this".

One Facebooker wrote: "Practice run for the

Thames??"

Northumbria Police said they are concerned about safety and will be speaking to the organisers.

A force spokesman said: "The River Tyne is not a countryside stream.

"The current is strong, there is a lot of debris and a number of vessels use the waterway every single day.

"A rubber dinghy is not an appropriate vessel to be used on this river and if people were to fall overboard then they could find themselves in real danger.

"If those involved are then consuming a significant amount of alcohol then that causes further concerns that could lead to a significant incident.

"We understand people want to enjoy the summer and have fun but we have a duty to ensure the safety of the public and put appropriate measures in place."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Moment pint of beer randomly explodes in pub in front of puzzled punter

By Josh Pary 22:23, 4 MAR 2017 Updated 22:25, 4 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

The pub's landlord has suggested he may be dealing with spirits of a different kind



A pint of beer has been captured on film randomly exploding in front of its puzzled owner.

Derby Arms pub landlord Dave McGinn struggled to believe a punter's claim his pint of Carling shattered without him touching it in Prescott on Wednesday.

But after the 48-year-old checked the CCTV footage he started to suspect ghostly goings on - and not just a drunken customer as he first thought.

He said: "The customer is a regular in the pub and he comes in most

Wednesdays.

"He ordered two pints of Carling and went and sat down and next minute he says it's just randomly exploded.



"I thought he might have knocked it or something without realising so I checked the CCTV and you can see that he's just sat texting. He doesn't touch it."

Dave, who has run the pub for over a decade, says he's often heard stories that his pub is haunted - but remains on the fence when it comes to potential paranormal activity.

He added: "Over the years a few cleaners have said they've seen people walking past or felt things moving. And we've had the odd glass fall off the shelf but we've never caught it on video.

"There is a story about a ghost called Hartley, who's apparently the resident ghost, but I've never really thought anything of it.

"To be honest I keep an open mind with this sort of thing but the video is really hard to explain.

"You can see that he's not touching the glass. He's just sat there texting and then it explodes."

The video has left the landlord scratching his head, The Liverpool Echo reports.

He said: "I really don't know what's happened.

"There's no explanation for it but I don't really know to be honest. It could just be one of those things."

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Boy born with massive crack across his skull that keeps growing

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Friday 10 Mar 2017 7:11 am



Pheaktra Pov's crack in his skull is getting bigger (Picture: Viral Press)

This six-year-old boy has a four-inch deep crack across his entire skull, and it's getting bigger by the week.

Pheaktra Pov was born with the defect after doctors warned mother Srey, 40, when she was seven-months pregnant that her baby had a problem with his head.

White House press secretary accidentally sends distress signal

The youngster had a small crevice on the top of his skull but doctors were baffled and sent them home without any further treatment for the boy.

Shockingly, the slit in his head has continued to get deeper and wider – now covering from his forehead to the base of his skull on the back of his head.

Doctors told Srey that there is nothing they can do but Pheaktra's grandmother Thorn Hong, 67, is determined to find a cure.



His family says they are praying for a cure for their son (Picture: Viral Press)

She wheels Pheaktra every weekend to the Angkor Watt temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, to beg for donations for her grandson, scraping together about £5 a day.

Thorn said: 'My daughter checked when she was three-months pregnant if anything was wrong and the doctors said everything was fine.

'But at seven months they said there was a serious problem but it was too late to do anything.

'Pheaktra was born with a crack in his head and it's getting bigger all the time. I can put my hand inside the middle, it is very big.

'Pheaktra's father left before he was born so it's just me and my daughter who take care of him. Doctors do not know what has caused this and they said there is nothing they can do.

This boy has a crack in his head



'Until he was five years old it seemed like there was water inside his head and it was swelling and getting bigger.

'I get about \$10 to \$25 a week from people at the Angkor Watt temple when I go on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. '

Local charities supply free medicine to Pheaktra but it is to prevent seizures and has no effect on the

bizarre crack in his head.

Thorn added: 'The children's hospital give us some medicine but it is just to make Pheaktra feel better.

'We pray everyday for somebody in the world that knows how to fix this.'

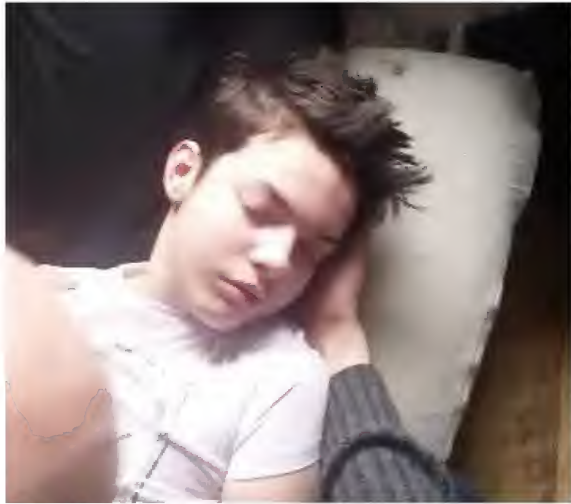
---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Boy, 13, with mystery condition sleeps for 18 hours a day

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 5 Apr 2017 10:23 am



Boy, 13, with mystery condition sleeps for 18 hours a day

Harry Appleton's condition has been growing slowly worse (Picture: Jan Appleton/Guzelian)

**A 13-year-old boy has a mystery condition that leaves him so exhausted that his parents can't wake him as he sleeps 18 hours a day.**

Harry Appleton, from Chesterfield, has not been to school for 12 weeks and his parents, Jan and James, fear his health is deteriorating.

They first started noticing problems 22 months ago, when Harry needed more sleep during certain periods of the year, but say the condition seems to occur more regularly now.

They have uploaded a video online, showing how difficult it is to wake their son.

'We even thought he had died when it first started happening,' said mother-of-three Jan, 40.

Teenager sleeps for 18 hours a day and can't be woken up



This is a modal window.

'He is just completely lifeless. You can touch him or move him and he just does not wake up.

'We even had a GP come round and he was shining lights in his eyes, but still he would not wake up. He used a pain reflex technique which should have woke him but still nothing,

'It is almost like he is in some form of coma. You just don't know what time he is going to wake up during the day. It is really damaging his life.'

Doctors said he has extreme episodic fatigue, feeling of severe tiredness, but Jan says they are still baffled by the fact he cannot be woken up.

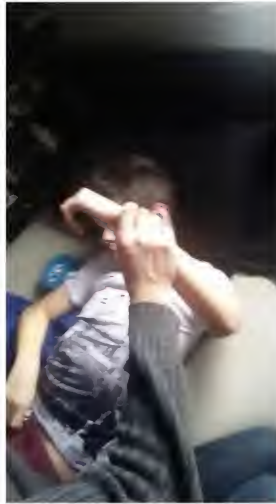
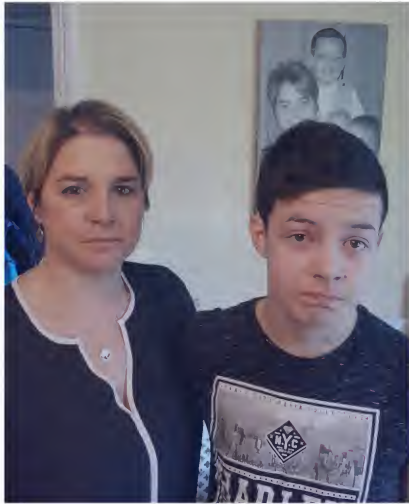
His parents have tried shaking him and even shouting his name but Harry continues to sleep until his body wakes up naturally.

(Harry hear with his mum Jan (Picture: Jan Appleton/Guzelian)

It is impossible to wake Harry while he is asleep (Picture: Jan Appleton/Guzelian)

He has even been admitted into hospital because they were not able to wake him up.





Jan added: 'It is awful to watch your son go through this. He has gone from a happy active boy who played football every three-days to someone who is quiet and removed, a completely different person.'

'He cannot go to school and is unable to hang around with his friends like a normal 13-year-old. I can only thank Xbox Live for allowing him some form of normality with his friends or he would not have any social interaction at all.'

The family are now looking to find after school tuition for Harry in order for him to keep up with his education.

However, due to the uncertainty surround when he wakes up, they have struggled to find anyone available to help.

The next step in his care will see him transferred from Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to Sheffield Children's Hospital to see if they can help his condition.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Boy literally crucified in the street by his parents for not doing his homework

shanghaiist.com



kid\_crucified.jpg

Kids, if you are reading this, please, **stop**, and finish your homework first. *Please*. Because one pair of Chinese parents literally crucified their son for not doing his.

A shocking photo, showing a young boy kneeling on a plastic crate in the street with his arms and back taped to a wooden cross began circulating on local WeChat groups in Chongqing earlier this week, causing a Chongqing Evening News reporter to investigate on Tuesday.

He found that the child's parents owned a small fruit shop in Yongchuan District and arrived to ask some questions. The child's father told the reporter that he was surprised by all the fuss that the photo had created, describing the

crucifixion as nothing more than a joke that his wife had played on their son, claiming that the boy was only tied up for a few minutes. During that time a passersby had mistaken the "joke" for torture and snapped a photo which now was being blown out of proportion, the father said.

But a neighbor told the reporter that the boy's parents were extremely strict and the mother had tied her son to the makeshift cross after she learned that he had not been doing his homework.

Later, the reporter found himself in the middle of a fierce argument between the neighbor and boy's father, in which the father claimed that the neighbor had invaded his family's privacy by snapping a photo of his son on the cross, and threatened to sue.

It's not clear if the incident is being investigated by police, or if the parents will perhaps receive any verbal warnings.

Recently, parents in central China seem to be taking an extreme interest in their children's education. This week a video went viral on Chinese social media featuring a Sichuan dad dangling his terrified son over a river while giving him a math test after he too had not been doing his homework.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Brazilian fisherman lucky to be alive after getting harpoon through the head | mackin | Radio 102.3

1 day ago

iheart.com

<http://radio1023.iheart.com/onair/mackin-54116/brazilian-fisherman-lucky-to-be-alive-15443076/>

harpoon head

*Military Fire Brigade of Minas Gerais*

A fisherman in Brazil is very lucky to be alive after a fishing trip went horribly wrong and he took a harpoon to the head.

27-year-old Hugo Pereira da Silva was out fishing with a friend at the Rio Paranaíba dam in Araguari when the 3 foot spear pierced his face.

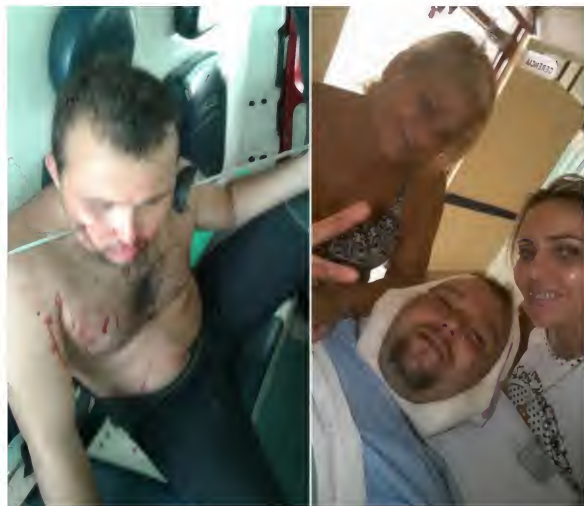
The spear was just inches away from causing more serious injuries, even death.

Araguari fire department Deputy Lt. Lucenildo Batista Alves said:

*"Unfortunately, they were not careful with the positioning, the distance. And the waters of the river in our region are murky, especially in the very dirty rainy season."*

Authorities are now investigating the fishing trip because it's illegal to use harpoons from November through January.

The harpoon-headed fisherman was treated, and he has been released from the hospital.



harpoon head 2

*Military Fire Brigade of Minas Gerais*

How the f\*\*k do you even survive that?!

**Read more at the New York Post.** And please be careful with your harpoons, people.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## North Carolina groom surprised by bride in T-rex costume

upi.com



This North Carolina groom is in for a shock when he turns around to see his bride is a dinosaur. Screenshot: Storyful

Jan. 27 (UPI) -- A bride dressed as a T-rex to surprise the groom at their North Carolina wedding photo shoot and the moment was captured on video by their photographer.

Photographer Jon Murray posted a video to Facebook showing the moment groom Tom Gardner was supposed to have his "first look" at his soon-to-be-wife, Beth, in her wedding

gown.

Beth had other plans, however, and Tom instead turned around to find his betrothed dressed as a Tyrannosaurus.

"I was totally floored when I turned around and saw her in this," Tom wrote in a Facebook comment.

"It just warms my heart to see that so many people got a giggle out of this too," Beth wrote.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Meet the man bringing 'ghost signs' back to life in Hackney hackneygazette.co.uk

**PUBLISHED:** 14:15 16 March 2017 | **UPDATED:** 15:51 16 March 2017



Sam Roberts has spent years hunting down old adverts painted on Hackney's buildings. He tells the Gazette about his love for "ghost signs".

"They're hidden in plain sight. They are there but until you become conscious of them, you're ignorant to them."

Sam Roberts is talking about "ghost signs" – faded advertisements painted on the side of buildings. He's fascinated by them, and has been since he moved to Lordship Road in Stoke Newington in 2005.



Back then he would walk or cycle up to Church Street and be confronted with the oldest one in Hackney – a now-listed advert for Waterman's, which reads "fount pens repaired".

"I just noticed it and thought it was weird they used to paint advertising," said the 38-year-old, who then worked in advertising.

"I loved it. It takes you back to when people could be bothered to get their pens repaired. I started whittling on to my wife, saying: 'Do you think I should take some photos?' And she said: 'Why don't you just stop going on about this idea and do something about it?'"



Sam now runs two ghost sign tours in London, has published a book about signs in Cambodia and has developed one app – with another on the way – all about them.

"She regrets saying it now," he quipped. "But I became tuned into where they are – I'm glancing around constantly looking for them. People on my tours describe the exact same

sensation when they see ones they've never noticed."

Sam began to take it seriously after cycling around, taking photos of all the signs he saw and sending them to family and friends.





"It was the responses to those emails that really fired me up," he continued. "Most people had some connection or could say 'there's one near me'."

So he started a blog, and after strangers started getting in touch he decided the work needed an institutional home. He contacted the History of Advertising Trust, which had the biggest archive of adverts in the world – but nothing on ghost signs – and crowd-sourced a project to document all the ones in the UK and Ireland.



After two years in Cambodia, where he wrote *Hand-Painted Signs of Kratie*, he came back in 2013 and had an idea to allow people to see them in person.

"People are constantly looking at them on screens," he said. "And there's a qualitative difference between looking on a computer and standing in the street looking at signs, and feeling how you connect with them when you meet them face-to-face."



After a couple of weeks camped in the Hackney local history archives, he was ready to go. People came from far and wide for his tours, and he's keen to point out that he's now number 63 in the top tours of London on Trip Advisor.

Tours in south London followed, as did an illuminated night project, which lit up the adverts to show how they used to look.

"There's discussions about whether they should be repainted or restored in some way,"

Sam explained. "I take an agnostic approach on that. I can see why people want to do it, but I'd rather see new signs painted for people to look back at in 60 years."

**Sam's phone app mapping his Hackney tour is set to launch in the summer. Visit [ghostsigns.co.uk](http://ghostsigns.co.uk).**

© 2017 Archant Community Media Ltd





/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Bunny Museum and its 33,000 bunny items moving to Altadena

By Kevin Smith , San Gabriel Valley Tribune

dailynews.com

Los Angeles Daily News  
LA Daily News



Dash the cat walks through The Bunny Museum's new location in Altadena. A grand opening for the expanded collection will be held on March 20. Sarah Reingewirtz/Staff Photographer Candace Frazee, who owns the museum along with her husband Steve Lubanski, is shown here

at previous location in Pasadena. file photo



The Bunny Museum, one of Southern California's most unique and unusual attractions, has moved to Altadena.

The new and expanded museum at 2605 Lake Ave. is just a hop, skip and jump away from its former Pasadena site.

But its inventory has grown — a lot.

### A massive collection of bunny-related items

"We currently have over 33,000 bunny items," said Candace Frazee, who co-owns the attraction along with her husband, Steve Lubanski. "The joke is that we've been packing for 10 years because we were pretty much out of room when we opened in Pasadena. We've always dreamed of moving."

The Bunny Museum began on Valentine's Day in 1993 with one bunny — Lubanski's gift to Frazee, who was then his girlfriend. They opened their home to the public in March 1998 with about 7,000 bunny items of every shape and size.

Since then the inventory has grown like ... well, like breeding rabbits.

### Guinness world records

To get a sense of the museum's collection and its growth trajectory consider this: In August 1999, it received the Guinness World Record for the most bunny items in the world — 8,437. In 2011, Guinness updated that record to reflect an expanded count of 28,423 items. And although the collection has now topped 33,000, it keeps growing.

"We buy each other something just about every day," Frazee said with a smile.

### Grand opening set for March 20

She's been busy in recent weeks arranging the tens of thousands of stuffed bunnies and bunny-related merchandise that is scattered throughout the building. A "Grand Hoppenin" is planned for March 20 to unveil the new museum.

Visitors will get the chance to view everything from nine Rose Parade float bunnies and bunny-themed furniture to antiques, bunny-inspired contemporary art, ceramic and glass bunnies and a large ceiling-suspended bunny perched atop a massive carrot, among other attractions.

### **A scary bunny room**

The museum, which also serves as the couple's home, is in the same building as Lubanski's Open Road Bicycle Shop, which also recently relocated from Pasadena. The museum additionally features a bunny library and a bunny warren where live rabbits will live and play.

And visitors in search of something a bit edgier can check out the "Chamber of Hop Horrors." But be forewarned — you must be at least 13 years old to see it.

Suspended overhead is a 6-foot, ferocious looking rabbit with an evil grin on his face. And some of the smaller bunnies in the room look decidedly angry.

### **Advertisement**

"We're also going to have photos of bunnies that were used in scientific experiments," Frazee said. "But this will not be open to anyone younger than 13."

LeeAnne Rowe, 34, of Burbank plans to bring an original bunny-collage picture she created to the museum's March 20 grand opening.

"This is something I used to do in high school," she said. "I traced a picture on cardboard and then I cut pieces out of magazines that have the same colors and put them in."

The effect, she said, is much like a paint-by-numbers painting. The collage is a close-up of a grinning rabbit that seems to owe at least some its lineage to Bugs Bunny.

Rowe said she discovered The Bunny Museum about nine years ago.

"I went there with a friend and we had the best time!" she said. "We still talk about it to this day. It's an eclectic and charming kind of place. I like to go to places that are not the norm. I went to a potato museum in Canada and I want to go to a banana museum at the Salton Sea."

Frazee said her clientele is more diverse than one might expect.

"When we first opened we thought it would just be families," she said. "But it turned out that hipsters like it. A lot of movie people come in for inspiration. We also get a lot of artists and photography classes that come in. And we get people in bunny costumes. We get fun and crazy people from all around the world."

### **A "visionary" place**

Paul Koudounaris, who serves on the museum's advisory board, put the enterprise into perspective.



“This doesn’t fall into the category of traditional museums,” he said. “It’s more a part of Southern California’s visionary culture. I’m sure some people might have thought Candace was nuts when she said she was going to open a rabbit museum in her home. But she went on to achieve that and now she’s made it even bigger. She is a visionary.”

Copyright © LA Daily News Copyright notice Privacy Policy Site Map Arbitration Digital First Media

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Bunny Ranch Owner Plans Raiders-Themed Brothel Near Las Vegas

huffingtonpost.com

Oakland Raiders fans may be sad about the team's move to Las Vegas, but it may give them more chance to score off the field than ever before.

Dennis Hof, who already owns six brothels in Nevada, is now planning to open a seventh — this one with a Raiders theme.

The brothel, tentatively titled "Pirate's Booty," is scheduled to open in 2020, around the same time the Raiders move into their new stadium in Sin City, according to the Las Vegas Sun.

Prostitution is legal in some counties in Nevada, but not in Vegas, so fans who want to get their backfields in motion will have to drive 90 miles to Crystal, which is also home to another Hof brothel, the Love Ranch South.

"I've had a license for a seventh brothel near Las Vegas for some time now, but I was waiting for the right time to launch another house of debauchery," Hof said in a press release. "The Raiders coming to Vegas will mean big business for me, so my next sex den will honor the 'Men in Black' and their 'Raider Nation.'"

To support the team, Hof promised that players and team staff would get a 50 percent discount on all sex parties they hold at the brothel.

Hof also said the VIP section will be exclusively available to Raiders players and other high-profile athletes, and told The Huffington Post he planned for the sex workers on staff to be dressed like Raiders cheerleaders.

HuffPost reached out to the Raiders, who did not respond to inquiries about Hof's offer.

However, Hof may want to rethink branding his brothel too close to the Raiders, warns San Diego-based trademark attorney T.C. Johnston.

Johnston told HuffPost since the Raiders are a "famous brand," they likely have dilution and tarnishment rights, which means they could argue that having a brothel associated with the brand might tarnish its image.

"So a brothel using the Raiders 'brand' for profit would be an almost too-cute TV plot case," he said.

Hof concedes there may be issues with trademark infringement, but is OK with it.

"We're damn sure going to have some fun with it," he told HuffPost. "I can't wait for the cease-and-desist letter."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Burglar caught after pooing out gold necklace he swallowed to hide metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Mar 2017 11:35 pm



Police 'recovered' the necklace (Kent Police)

**A burglar who swallowed down a gold chain was discovered by police after it came out the other end.**

Clifford Airey, a prolific burglar, pinched the chain, worth several hundred pounds, from a home in Herne Bay, Kent on January 31 this year.

The 52-year-old was still carrying the chain when he raided another home in the area on the same day and was caught by police.

Just before being arrested, however, he gulped down the gold chain in a desperate bid to prevent being linked to the other burglary.

But he was locked up – and officers had their evidence when nature called and he passed the gold chain.

Police recovered the necklace from his stool.



He admitted burglary at Medway Magistrates Court (Rex)

Airey, of Herne Bay, admitted burglary and handling stolen goods and jailed for eight years and was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court last week.

Detective Constable Kirsty Martin said this week: 'Airey is a prolific burglar and has caused significant suffering.

'He's now in prison for a considerable amount of time where he can no longer pose a threat.'

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Bus gets wedged in central London blocking off entire street

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 5 Apr 2017 12:28 pm

A bus somehow managed to block off a central London street when he became wedged across the road.

It is believed the driver was attempting a three point turn when one end of the double-decker got stuck on the pavement.

Video shows the good people of London tried to help him by pushing the bus, but it's just too heavy and the wheels merely spin.

It happened on Saturday afternoon, just before 2pm, in Cornhill, near Bank station. He managed to eventually free the bus after what was described as a 'million point turn'.

The bus got stuck because diversions were in place along the route and the driver took a wrong turn. London buses aren't equipped with SatNav so he turned the bus round to retrace his steps.



Witness Adrian Brailsford told the Standard: 'It was trying to do a three-point turn but the back mounted the kerb. The wheels were spinning round and round.

'All the passengers got off and tried to get it moving again, as you can see, trying to push it off the kerb.

'The passengers didn't seem to mind rolling up their sleeves and lending a helping hand. People seemed quite amused by it all. Some were stopping and taking photos.

'We stopped to watch for about 10 to 15 minutes, but I have no idea what happened after that.

'I imagine the bus would be considerably more difficult to manoeuvre, so it's a good job Austin Powers wasn't behind the wheel.'

In the Film, Austin Powers gets a buggy stuck in a corridor.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man accused of killing his girlfriend then eating her brain not fit to stand trial

thescottishsun.co.uk

The Sun, A News UK Company

### 'Cannibal killer' accused of hacking his girlfriend to death then eating her brain not fit to stand trial, lawyers claim

Joseph Oberhansley, 35, is said to have stabbed Tammy Jo Blanton, 46, to death with a knife before sawing her open

By MYDRIM JONES

27th February 2017, 2:42 pm

A MAN accused of killing, raping and eating his girlfriend is not fit to stand trial, his lawyers claim.

Joseph Oberhansley, 35, of Jeffersonville, Indiana is said to have stabbed Tammy Jo Blanton, 46, to death with a knife after breaking into her home.



4

Joseph Oberhansley s accused of killing his partner, raping and eating her organs

He then allegedly used an electric jigsaw to open her skull to scoff parts of her brain and ate part of her heart and a lung.

Oberhansley has been charged with murder, rape and burglary at Tammy Jo's home in September 2014.

He is also accused of dismembering and consuming parts of her body and could face the death sentence if convicted.



4

Joseph Oberhansley pictured is charged with murder, rape and abuse of a corpse in the September 2014 death of Tammy Jo Blanton (right)

4

The affidavit said Oberhansley broke into her home, stabbed her to

death with a knife and then used an electric jigsaw to open her skull and eat parts of her brain

Oberhansley confessed to the grisly crimes including "cooking a section of her brain and eating it," police said after his arrest.

But he has since repeatedly denied the allegations and told a judge he wanted to sack his "so-called" attorneys.





Now, lawyers say he is not competent enough to consult with them or understand proceedings, according to newly filed court papers.

According to documents: "Mr. Oberhansley has consistently appeared irrational and expressed bizarre thoughts at hearings.

"While in jail, he was observed experiencing hallucinations."

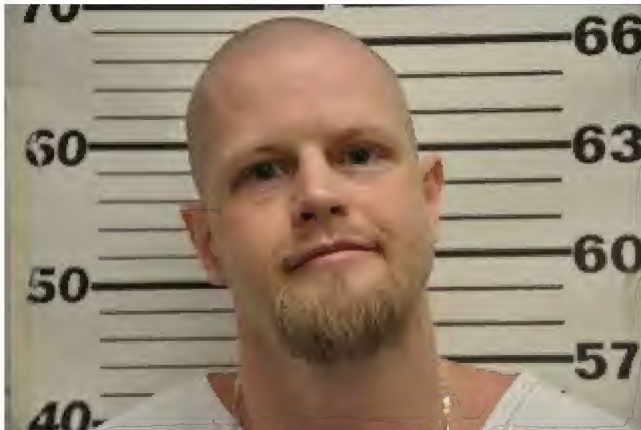
Oberhansley was transferred from Clark County jail to an Indiana Department of Correction facility in 2015.

He was placed in a psychiatric unit after an evaluation and is still there, according to the documents.

The paper states: "There has been a complete breakdown of Mr. Oberhansley's communications with counsel.

"He is suspicious, paranoid, uncommunicative, and agitated whenever he meet[s] with counsel."

Clark County Prosecutor Jeremy Mull acknowledged the court was obligated to investigate when information indicated a defendant may not be competent for trial, reports the News and Tribune.



*His attorneys say he's not competent to stand trial*

4

His attorneys say he's not competent to stand trial

He said: "However, I'm very frustrated by the fact that these issues are only now being raised by the defence after this case has pended for this length of time.

"It was my strong hope to have this case tried to a jury in June of this year, and it is my hope that this does not delay the trial."

A hearing has been set for March 8 when Mr. Mull expects Oberhansley's lawyers to address the court about their competency concerns.

A trial date has been cancelled and rescheduled at least twice before, according to court records. It is now down for June 12.

Tammy Jo was found with parts of her skull removed under a vinyl camping tent draped over her bath.

Cops also found a "plate with what appeared to be skull bone and blood" on it.

A skillet, a pair of tongs with blood on the handles and tissue were in the rubbish bin.

An autopsy revealed she died from multiple stab wounds and parts of her heart, lungs and brain were missing.

At the time of the murder, Oberhansley was free on parole for fatally gunning down his girlfriend Sabrina Elder, 17, in a drug-fuelled jealous rage in 1998.

He also shot his mum in the back and fired at his sister before tucking the weapon under his chin and pulling the trigger to give himself a "partial lobotomy."

'Cannibal' lags boast of barbecuing HUMAN flesh in shocking video

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Berlin police seize cannon made for launching coconuts

upi.com

March 16 (UPI) -- Berlin police announced they seized an artist's homemade cannon after a coconut launched by the device narrowly missed hitting a dog walker.

Police said in a Facebook post that a man taking a dog for a walk March 1 in an industrial area of the German capital heard a loud bang followed by the sight of a large projectile whizzing past him at a high speed.

Investigators determined the projectile was a coconut that had been launched from a cannon created by a 23-year-old artist. Police shared photos of the device in the Facebook post.

The artist, Julian Charriere, said the coconut cannon was created for an art project in Antarctica and that he had wanted to test it before shipping.

Police said they impounded the cannon and that prosecutors are investigating whether it violates Germany's arms control laws.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Can't sleep? Call this hotline for bizarre sleep-inducing sounds

USA Today Network Mary Bowerman , USA TODAY Network

usatoday.com

For those who are wide awake and struggling to get to sleep, this hotline may be for you. Anything's worth trying, right?

Mattress company Casper kicked off its "Can't Sleep" campaign Monday with a bizarre hotline that offers sleep-deprived people some weird and surely unhelpful options to get back to sleep.

*AdWeek* reported that at 2 a.m., 15-second commercials for the campaign were aired on TNT, TBS and AMC to implore late-nighters to call this toll-free number: 888-890-2040. The commercials made no reference to the mattress company and featured strange images of sprouting plants and salmon jumping upstream, with the words "can't sleep" appearing on the screen.

The goal of the commercials was to "couple the escapism of sleep with the bizarre nature of dreams, and the eerie solitude of late-night insomnia," Casper's vice president of communications and brand engagement Lindsay Kaplan told *AdWeek*.

"We wanted to catch people during overnight hours with hypnotic and surreal creative, so it was produced in a way that fit right in with the offbeat commercials of 3 a.m.," Kaplan said.

Those curious enough to call the hotline are greeted by a British man who asks callers to select one of nine options, or to stay on the line to speak with a mattress sales representative.

Callers can do the following:

- Press 1 to hear the sounds of the ocean.
- Press 2 to hear wind chimes blowing in the wind.
- Press 3 to travel back in time to the 1990s.
- Press 4 to undergo hypnosis.
- Press 5 for a motivational speech.
- Press 6 for a grandma who misses you.
- Press 7 to learn the history of the cocktail wiener.
- Press 8 to hear Jaleel White who played Steve Urkel on *Family Matters* sing you a lullaby.
- Press 9 to merge into the conference call with the marketing team who came up with this idea.

None of those options sound good? You can always stay on the line with John, who isn't sure why you aren't sleeping.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man who doesn't know how to swim rescues boy in hotel pool

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press March 3, 2017

**FAIRFIELD, N.J. (AP)** — Police say a Pennsylvania man who doesn't know how to swim jumped into the deep end of a pool at a New Jersey hotel and rescued a boy from drowning.

Fairfield police say a Paterson woman and a male companion were in the pool at the La Quinta Inn on Thursday with her five children, who range in age from 1 to 9. Police say none knew how to swim, and the 9-year-old went under water.

The companion ran to the front desk for help. Police say 37-year-old Randolph Tajada-Perez, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, was checking in. Tajada-Perez, who doesn't know how to swim, jumped into the pool and after several attempts reached the child.

The boy is in stable condition.

Police are calling Tajada-Perez a "hero guest."

---

This story has been revised to correct the spelling of Hazleton.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man pulls seven cars with rope tied around his testicles

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 4 Apr 2017 2:16 pm



*Man pulls seven cars with rope tied around his testicles*

Ye Wei dragged seven cars with a rope tied to his testicles (Picture: AsiaWire)

**Of the many things that testicles are designed for, dragging around heavy weights is certainly not one of them.**

However, that hasn't stopped martial arts expert Ye Wei trying to achieve the impossible by channeling the strength of his nut sack.

To prove how strong it really is the Thai Chi master pulled seven cars with his testicles last week much to the amazement of the crowd that had gathered to watch him in his hometown of Zibo City in China.

The seven Audis have a combined weight of 12.6 tonnes, which is very very heavy, but not heavy enough to stop Ye dragging the vehicles for a total of eight metres.

Ye has been practising his own brand of martial arts that focuses on 'inner strength', energy from his spine, as well as his testicles, which he charmingly calls his 'outer kidneys'.

Man pulls seven cars with his testicles



He practises his own form of martial arts (Picture: AsiaWire)





*Man pulls seven cars with rope tied around his testicles*

He can be seen in footage tying a rope around his balls, before heaving the linked cars backwards in a straight line.

Ye triumphantly declares he has set a record by completing the feat, however, it is unclear for which organisation.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Cat food litters French motorway, causing traffic tailback

thelocal.fr

AFP

11 February 2017

11:47 CET+01:00

A truck carrying 2,000 pounds (40 tonnes) of cat food collided with a car in central France Friday, littering the motorway with its tins for kitty.

The accident caused an eight kilometre (five mile) long traffic jam and closed down the motorway for more than half a day.

The accident, which lightly injured two people and was first reported by the Vinci construction company, occurred at about 4:00 am on the A10 motorway in the Chateau-Renault region, about 200 kilometres (124 miles) southwest of Paris, emergency services said.

But it wasn't until around 5:00 pm that authorities could finally clear enough of the tinned food litter to open one of the motorway's three lanes.

A second lane was freed about an hour and a half later, while the third remained closed Friday evening.

The A10 is the French gateway to popular weekend destinations Tours in central western France and Bordeaux, the port city of the famed wine-growing region farther to the south.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Roman Catholic bishops buy 'sexy' BBC shows for Italian TV channel

telegraph.co.uk

**The Telegraph** • Anita Singh  
18 February 2017 • 10:00pm

A television channel owned by Italy's conference of bishops and endorsed by the Pope is to broadcast BBC shows for the first time - and has chosen the *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation featuring Colin Firth's famous wet shirt scene.

BBC Worldwide has announced its first sales to TV2000, a Roman Catholic station known as "the Italian Church's TV". A typical day's schedule includes broadcasts of Holy Mass and the Holy Rosary from Lourdes, with occasional showings of Doris Day films.

The channel had its pick of the BBC's export catalogue but passed on international favourites such as *Top Gear*, *Doctor Who* and *The Great British Bake Off*.

Instead they opted for nine period dramas, including the 1995 version of *Pride and Prejudice* starring Jennifer Ehle as Elizabeth Bennet and Colin Firth as Mr Darcy.

Bishop's chose BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* with Colin Firth in a wet t-shirt.

The scene in which he emerges from a lake in a dripping wet shirt has been making women weak at the knees for more than 20 years.

If the bishops thought they were avoiding racy content by choosing genteel costume dramas, perhaps they did not watch them too closely.

They signed up for the 2008 version of *Sense and Sensibility* which, like *Pride and Prejudice*, was adapted by Andrew Davies.

It was criticised by the Jane Austen Society for "sexing up the story" by opening with a scene in which John Willoughby seduces a 15-year-old girl.

Davies set out to make it "more overtly sexual" than previous adaptations.

The book hinted at "quite interesting and steamy stuff like a lot of underage sex that goes on and is just talked about.

I want to put it on the screen," he said at the time.

Austen clearly has the bishops' seal of approval, because the channel also bought a 2009 version of *Emma*, starring Romola Garai, and a BBC feature film, *Miss Austen Regrets*, which charts the author's later years.

A television channel owned by Italy's conference of bishops and endorsed by the Pope is to broadcast BBC shows for the first time - and has chosen the *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation featuring Colin Firth's famous wet shirt scene. Credit: BBC/BBC



The list of acquisitions includes adaptations of Jane Eyre, Great Expectations, Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South, and Gerald Durrell's My Family and Other Animals.

The only show not drawn from classic literature is The Paradise, a drama set in a 19th century department store.

The announcement was made on the eve of the BBC Worldwide Showcase in Liverpool, when the broadcaster's commercial arm will display its wares to buyers from channels around the world.

While Pope Francis grants interviews to TV2000 and has held an audience with its staff, he is unlikely to see the channel's new acquisitions.

He has not watched television since 1990, when he made a promise to the Virgin Mary that he would not switch on a set again.

The only thing he misses watching is football, he said in a 2015 interview, but manages to follow the fortunes of his Argentinian team because "there is a Swiss Guard that every week tells me the results and how we are doing in the league table".

---

*Credit: BBC/BBC*

## Chainsaw comes out after latest twist in giant macrocarpa hedge conflict

stuff.co.nz

JOEL MAXWELL

Last updated 18:40, March 22 2017

Waikanae Beach man Vince Osborne is forced to take to his beloved giant macrocarpa hedge with a chainsaw after a dispute over traffic safety with his local council.

Some call it a treasure, some a danger, either way the hedge, taller than a giraffe, at the centre of a council battle has had an "ugly-looking slash".

On Wednesday Vince Osborne wiped the rain off his brow then set his chainsaw running through the 7-metre high, sculpted macrocarpa hedge planted by his grandfather in the 1930s at Waikanae Beach, north of Wellington.

As the blade chewed through the lower branches he had two thoughts: "there's 80 years gone", and then, "granddad would be rolling in his grave".



MONIQUE FORD/FAIRFAX NZ A gutted Vince Osborne hacks back the hedge planted by his grandfather in the 1930s.



MONIQUE FORD/FAIRFAX NZ The work under the hedge's canopy.

In January the Osborne family revealed they were fighting to save the hedge at the front of their home – a familiar feature on Te Moana Rd, the gateway to Waikanae Beach.

Osborne was cutting a tunnel along the bottom of the hedge – a compromise offered by Kapiti Coast District Council in its bid to get the hedge trimmed.

The council produced a series of reports that revealed it was the likely owner of the land under the hedge, due to Osborne's property boundary, and said it had to act to keep the community safe.

Osborne said the section of hedge he was cutting back would never regenerate, and "that would be how it looked till it died".

The manicured hedge is taller than many houses and wider than a bus, with an archway cut in the corner to allow entry to the family's driveway.





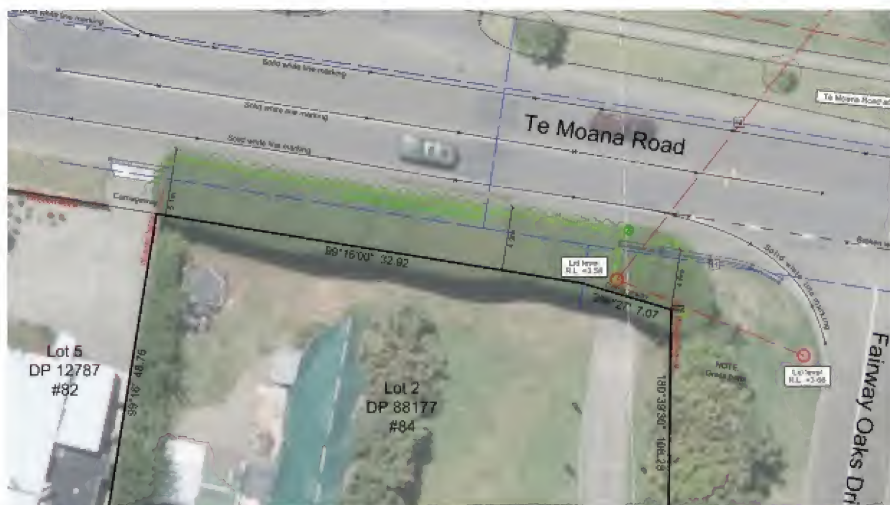
KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ The hedge in January, without the cutting along its bottom, looking west from the Osborne driveway.

It ran between a neighbouring property's driveway and Fairway Oaks Dr. It grew over the berm, forcing pedestrians and cyclists on to the road.

Osborne said the family received a letter in January from eight neighbours, which said the hedge was a traffic hazard. The same letter was also sent to the council.

The family were called by the council and told another letter was on its way, requesting that the hedge

be cut back by February 22.



SUPPLIED A survey map commissioned by Kapiti Coast District Council showing the boundary of the Osborne property, in black, with the hedge, the green shape running across the front of the property named Lot 2, facing Te Moana Rd, Waikanae Beach.

The council wanted the entire front of the hedge cut back, which would leave dead-looking bare branches, permanently without greenery. Then the family were given an extension till April to have the work done.

Osborne said it appeared most of the hedge actually fell across council land - although not the trunks.

"They own the land, full stop, up to the boundary, and can do whatever they want to for the safety".



MONIQUE FORD/FAIRFAX NZ The start of the corridor along the bottom of the hedge, looking east from the opposite end to the Osborne driveway.

Being forced to cut a tunnel along the hedge was 'very disappointing' given the huge support for the hedge, Osborne said.

"More disappointing is that they don't listen to the community...so we're going to get an ugly looking slash through the bottom."

Osborne said the council had rejected his suggestions over safety measures, including installing a stop sign at Fairway Oaks and mirrors for vehicles pulling on to Te Moana Rd.





KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ The hedge in January, with a pedestrian walking along the roadside.

Council infrastructure services group manager Sean Mallon said once the independent report on traffic safety confirmed the hedge was a hazard, the council was forced to act.

Mallon said the boundary survey confirmed the hedge was on road reserve, and could be removed without consultation.

Kapiti mayor K Gurunathan said the council might look to build a fence along the inside of the hedge that

would be "pleasing to the eye".



MONIQUE FORD/FAIRFAX NZ Vince Osborne, cutting a corridor along the bottom of his beloved hedge.

"Once a safety complaint is made, then the council is on notice...and if anything happens then it's our neck on the chopping block."

Macrocarpa hedges were a part of the Waikanae character but "we don't want the gateway to Waikanae Beach to be a traffic hazard".

Neighbour Tony Davies, whose driveway exits from around the side of the hedge, said over the 14 years he lived there he had progressively lost his view pulling out of his

driveway. The front of his car was forced out almost into the road itself.



KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ A postie pulls out of the Osborne driveway, through the hedge, in January.

Cyclists and pedestrians were out of sight, and Davies said he had to sound his horn when he drove out.

On Wednesday afternoon Osborne had cut about 4m along the length of the hedge before knocking off for the day.

© 2017 Fairfax New Zealand Limited  
Privacy | Terms and Conditions



KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ Looking out from Vince Osborne's Waikanae home toward the macrocarpa hedge.

---

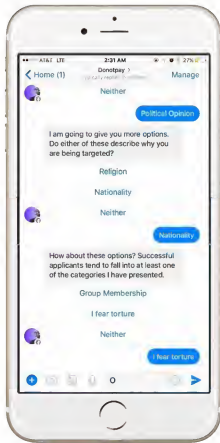
*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Chatbot that got people off 160,000 parking tickets is helping with asylum claims

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Monday 6 Mar 2017 2:47 pm



DoNotPay bot has already helped 160,000 people get off parking fines (Picture: Joshua Browder)

**Claiming asylum as a refugee is no doubt a bewildering experience especially in the less-than-friendly international environment we live in.**

However, a chatbot has been designed to help refugees through the process in the UK, US and Canada, using plain English to make things as simple as possible.

The DoNotPay bot, was created by Stanford student Joshua Browder, and has already helped overturn more than 160,000 parking fines and support vulnerable people apply for

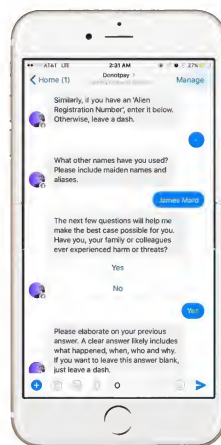
emergency housing.

The London-born developer created the 'robot lawyer' by speaking to their real-life equivalents as well as asylum seekers who have been successful in their applications.

It has been in the making for some time, but Joshua said he was determined to make it as detailed as possible.



Joshua Browder came up with the idea while studying at Stanford (Picture: Twitter/browder1)



The app works via Facebook Messenger (Picture: Joshua Browder)

It works via Facebook Messenger and starts by asking the user a series of questions before filling out the application for them.

Once it is sent, the message is destroyed.

Although Facebook

Messenger doesn't have end-to-end encryption, Joshua's server does with Facebook.

He is hoping to expand the service into WhatsApp and expand it into more languages than just the English available.

He said that while he began to build the chatbot before the US Election, Trump's victory has made the service all the more vital.



He told the Guardian: 'I've been trying to launch this for about six months – I initially wanted to do it in the summer.

'But I wanted to make sure I got it right because it's such a complicated issue. I kept showing it to lawyers throughout the process and I'd go back and tweak it.

'That took months and months of work, but we wanted to make sure it was right.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Eggceptional! Hen in Echo Bay, Ont. lays egg the size of baseball

2017/03/27

cbc.ca



**Hen's egg is more than three times the size of a large chicken egg, potentially the largest in Canada**

By Marina von Stackelberg, CBC News Posted: Mar 27, 2017 4:33 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 27, 2017 6:17 PM ET



A hobby farmer near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. made a surprising discovery last week when he went to collect his chicken's eggs.

One of Dennis Goslow's hens has laid an egg that is 180 grams. That's heavier than a major league baseball and the size of a large apple.

"[The egg] seems to be a little bit warped," Goslow said from his home in Echo Bay, Ont. "You can imagine, the poor thing coming out. It looks like an egg, but it's a little rough."

"It was warm when I picked it up," he

*Dennis Goslow uses an apple to show just how large his hen's egg is. A retiree in Echo Bay, Ont., Goslow raises several dozen chickens in his backyard. (Dennis Goslow)*

said.



*A large sized chicken egg usually weighs between 50 and 58 grams. Goslow's hen's egg is more than three times that weight. (Dennis Goslow)*

### A Canadian record

Goslow told CBC News he's never seen a chicken egg this big in his life.

In 2009, a chicken in the Ottawa area made news when it laid an egg that was 143 grams. At 180 grams, Goslow's egg might be the heaviest on Canadian record.

Unfortunately, there's no World Record title in the cards.

The record for the heaviest chicken egg in the world was reportedly laid by a hen in New Jersey, USA in 1956. That egg was 454 grams.

### Is there an egg inside the egg?

Goslow, who raises a few dozen chickens in his backyard, said he isn't sure which one of his hens laid the egg.

"I was looking for the one that didn't have any butt," he said. "When I was in there it seemed like one chicken was all light and happy."

"I was looking for [a chicken] that didn't have any butt." - Dennis Goslow, hobby farmer

Goslow said he is still waiting to decide what to do with the egg, but he thinks he might crack it open to see if there is another egg inside of it.

He said this particular hen might have had trouble pushing out the first egg, so another one could have formed around it.

Since some of his chickens are older, it's possible that one of the hens developed an issue producing eggs, he said.



*Dennis Goslow said he believes the giant egg might contain another egg. He said his hen might have had trouble pushing out the first egg, so another one might have formed around it. (Dennis Goslow)*

### 'They're my babies'

Most farmers will usually slaughter their chickens when they reach two years old, as their egg quality tends to decrease.

But Goslow said he wouldn't consider slaughtering his own hens.

"I myself can't do that. They're my babies," he said.

"They get sick or whatever, I'll take [care of] them. I've got two of them sleeping in my office in a cage at night."

Click here to listen to Dennis Goslow's interview on CBC's northern Ontario afternoon show *Up North*.

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you

acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are moderated and published according to our submission guidelines.

CBC

Radio-Canada

©2017 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved

Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Children played with unexploded bomb at Rosemarkie - BBC News

bbc.com



23 February 2017

- From the section Highlands & Islands



*The Royal Navy has disposed of the unexploded device*

Image copyrightMike Merritt

Children played with an unexploded mortar bomb on a beach before being told what it was.

The beach at Rosemarkie in the Highlands was closed to the public on Tuesday following the discovery.

A Royal Navy bomb disposal team from HM Clyde at Faslane disposed of the device, thought to be from World War Two, on Wednesday

evening.

Lt Cmdr Tony Hampshire said the coastguard had told the team children had been playing with the device.

The Royal Navy officer said: "Despite its era the explosive was probably intact and still dangerous. These devices should be treated with respect.

"The family who realised the danger did absolutely the right thing."

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency said: "Thankfully the children who were reported playing with this live mortar were unharmed.

"Thanks to Inverness Coastguard and Nairn Coastguard for making Rosemarkie Beach safe for the public until the Royal Navy's EOD team arrived to safely dispose of this device."

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Tourist lost in the Amazon rainforest says monkeys helped him survive

12:23 EDT, 24 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

A Chilean tourist who got lost in the the Amazon rainforest for nine days says a group of monkeys helped him survive by dropping him food and leading him to shelter and water.

Maykool Coroseo Acuña, 25, was camping in Bolivia's Madidi National Park near the Tuichi River with tour company Max Adventures when he wandered off and got lost in the forest.

The story behind the whirlwind nine days that saw Acuña being accused of disrespecting Mother Nature, shamans praying away evil spirits, and monkeys dropping pieces of fruit has been revealed in a report by National Geographic.

Acuña disappeared from his cabin one evening in February, around 8.30pm, without leaving a trace behind.

Madidi Park Director Marcos Uzquiana initially said that park rangers weren't sure what happened during his disappearance, saying 'someone may be lying'.

Maykool Coroseo Acuña, 25, was camping in Bolivia's Madidi National Park near the Tuichi River with tour company Max Adventures when he wandered off and got lost in the forest

Park rangers spent several days looking for Acuña but were unsuccessful. Six days after his disappearance, all they found was a muddy sock lying on the ground of the forest

Acuña was covered in bites and cuts when he was found, as a result of being in the wilderness for nine days

Acuña had been with a tour group from Max Adventures, in a remote area of the national park that is only accessible by boat and miles from the nearest town.

Max Adventures owner Feizar Nava said that Acuña had signed up for a tour with travelers he'd met the previous day, and the group went into the rainforest for an afternoon of exploring with guides.

When they returned to camp, Acuña was visibly excited, though 'acting a little bit strange', Nava said, adding that his face 'didn't look normal'.

Acuña then refused to join other travelers at the cabin participating in a Pachamama - or Mother Nature - ceremony to thank Pachamama for letting them enter the forest.

The traditional ceremony involves coca leaves, candles and cigarettes.

As others participated in the ceremony, a guide went to the cabin to check on Acuña, but he was nowhere to be found.

Nine days after his disappearance, rangers heard Acuña screaming from a riverbank less than a mile from camp

Spiritual shamans were invited to the camp to take part in rituals in an attempt to locate the Acuña, and they even used the muddy sock to try to make contact with his soul

The group spent hours searching for Acuña, but he disappeared without a trace. Nava was convinced it was because he didn't participate in the Pachamama Ceremony, thus offending Mother Nature.

She said that those who disrespect Pachamama could be driven mad by Duende, an evil spirit who hides victims in other dimensions.

'For myself and the rangers, this is our culture,' Park director Uzquiano told National Geographic. 'We believe that Duende is real. And we think it's possible that Maykool was taken by him.'

Park rangers spent several days looking for Acuña, but were unsuccessful. Six days after his disappearance, all they found was a muddy sock lying on the ground of the forest.

Spiritual shamans were invited to the camp to take part in rituals in an attempt to locate the Acuña, and they even used the muddy sock to try to make contact with his soul.

The shamans brought several items in hopes that they would help them breach the spiritual domain: blocks of sugar tableaux, cigarettes, beer cans, coca leaves, wine bottles, candles, confetti and a large wooden cross

Acuña had to be carried back to camp on a stretcher made of blankets and branches after he was discovered by the riverbank

Max Adventures owner Feizar Nava said that Acuña had signed up for a tour with travelers he'd met the previous day, and the group went into the rainforest for an afternoon of exploring with guides

Acuña thanked his rescuers and took a photo with the group that searched for him for days after he was brought back to camp

Acuña said that the night before he was discovered by the riverbank, he prayed that he would be saved

They performed several ceremonies in hopes of contacting Acuña, who they believed was stuck in another dimension.

Nine days after his disappearance, rangers heard Acuña screaming from a riverbank less than a mile from camp.

Acuña, who was badly bitten and stung after being in the wilderness for a week and a half, said he only stayed alive by following a pack of monkeys.

He said they dropped fruit for him to eat and led him to shelter and water every day.

He told the magazine: 'I started running, I was wearing sandals and I said 'no, they would slow me down'.

'I threw away the sandals, then the cell phone and my flashlight.

'And after running so much, I stopped under a tree and I started thinking. What had I done, what was I doing? And when I wanted to get back it wasn't possible.'



Acuña said that the night before he was discovered by the riverbank, he prayed that he would be saved.

Acuña said that he doesn't believe in shamans or the cultures of the Bolivian jungles - he believes it was God who saved him.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## China bus company pays drivers in small change - BBC News

bbc.com

A bus company in eastern China has paid its drivers using small change in order to avoid taking a huge stockpile of coins to the bank.

About 200 members of staff at the Baoying Automobile Transport Company were given bags containing mainly 1-yuan coins, popular news site Jiangsu Net reports. The company, which operates in Jiangsu Province, saw a big rise in passenger numbers over the Chinese New Year holiday in January. Many of them preferred to pay in cash instead of using travel cards, union head Gu Fengyun tells the site.

That left managers pondering how to deal with all the cash. Rather than lug it all to the bank to be deposited, they decided to offload coins worth about 200,000 yuan (\$30,000; £23,000) onto their employees as wages. The company says the alternative - moving, counting and processing the small change - would have required "a lot of manpower and equipment" both from its own staff and those at the bank.

But the decision has left some drivers unhappy. "Yes it's money, but it's inconvenient to go shopping while carrying round a bag of heavy coins," one driver says. Another explains that staff received differing amounts in small change - some got 300 yuan, others had to deal with coins worth 1,000 yuan.

They may not have to worry, though, as after the story made headlines the local branch of the People's Bank of China got in touch with the bus company to offer a solution. An official tells Yangzhou News that many companies don't realise that commercial banks in the region have coin-counting machines, and they would be happy to exchange the weighty wages for lighter banknotes.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## END OF THE WORLD: Christians predict apocalypse THIS WEEK as Venus lines up with Wolf Moon

express.co.uk



# EXPRESS

Home of  
the Daily and  
Sunday Express

express\_logo

### END OF THE WORLD: Christians predict apocalypse THIS WEEK as Venus lines up with Wolf Moon

#### CHRISTIANS around the globe are

linking recent astronomical phenomenon to the end of the world - which they believe could happen this week.

By Sean Martin

PUBLISHED: 04:49, Fri, Jan 13, 2017 | UPDATED: 13:26, Fri, Jan 13, 2017



GETTY

Christians are predicting the end of the world

The evening of January 12 will see the first full moon of the year, known as the Wolf Moon, and Venus will be at its brightest for the first time in eight year.

This, combined with the fact that they fall on the eve of the first Friday the 13th of the year, has led some to believe that the end is nigh.

While separately the three incidents are nothing new, with a full moon every month, Venus being this bright every eight years and two or three 'Friday the 13th's a year, when combined, some fear that the apocalypse is coming.

Many are pointing to the Bible's Luke 21:25, which reads: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring."



GETTY

Some fear the apocalypse

The full moon and Venus, which will look like an exceptionally bright star, could be interpreted as 'signs in the moon and stars', and with Donald Trump's inauguration little more than a week away and heightened tension between nations around the globe could be the "distress of nations".

One person wrote on Facebook: "Please we need to be ready at all

times because we are practically close to the end of days."





GETTY

Venus (top left) has been visible with the naked eye this month

Another added: "Jesus is going to crack the sky and take His children home soon and very soon. The world is looking for a savior in all the wrong places.

"So much division and hatred, and wars of every kind. Not just wars between countries, but wars in the home, wars with the government, wars between generations, wars in the marriage, wars in the streets, war everywhere you see."

Is the end nigh?

A third, with a bit of tongue-in-cheek, said: "January 12, Celtic Wolf, Full Moon. January 13..a Friday (nuff said). January 14th, my 50th birthday. I don't see days as much as horseman of the apocalypse."

However, judging by numerous apocalyptic predictions in recent months, we think we'll be safe this time.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Church cops? Congregation eyes its own unusual police force

apnews.com

AP NEWS

**AP**By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Briarwood Presbyterian Church already has more than 4,000 members, two private schools and its own radio station. And if administrators have their way, the wealthy congregation could soon add something that no other American church has: its own police force.

With a membership larger than many small towns, Briarwood has asked the state Legislature for permission to set up a private law enforcement department to watch over its flock and schools. The bill comes at a time when places of worship around the country are stepping up security, but a church-only police force raises constitutional questions that are ripe for a legal challenge. And opponents worry crimes could be covered up by the church.

Experts believe a church with its own police department would be unprecedented in the U.S.

"I've never even heard of this," said Heath Grant, an assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. "From the perspective of security, churches usually have relationships with the local police departments. I don't know why that wouldn't be sufficient."

The Birmingham church hires off-duty police officers from nearby jurisdictions to cover its events, but it says there often are not enough officers available to help. Church officials also worry about mass shootings, such as the attacks at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut and the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

The bill was introduced by Republican Rep. Arnold Mooney, whose wife and daughter work at Briarwood Christian School. All three of his children graduated from Briarwood schools.

"Officer presence is the No. 1 line of defense," he said in an email.

Twenty-one of Mooney's colleagues in the Republican-controlled House support his bill, which passed the Legislature last year but was not signed into law by Gov. Robert Bentley. The governor did not give a reason for not acting on the proposal in 2016 and has given no indication what he will do this year.

Debate in the House is expected before the session ends in May.

In Alabama, a state where religion permeates nearly every aspect of social and political life, Briarwood's presence looms large. In addition to the huge membership and the radio station, the church's schools have nearly 2,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Their teams, particularly football, soccer and tennis, are known for athletic success. Briarwood also sends missionaries abroad to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Opponents of the bill worry that forming a church-only police department may lead to crimes being covered up. There are also doubts about the department's potential power, how closely it would work with neighboring police and who it would ultimately answer to.

"It's making the church take the role of the government," said Richard E. Levy, a constitutional law professor at Kansas University. "I would expect that if the law is enacted it would not be very long before it is challenged."

The bill was first proposed after students at Briarwood's high school were arrested in a drug bust in early 2015, which made a splash in Birmingham-area media. While church administrators deny the raid was a catalyst for the bill, critics worry that similar instances could go unreported if the church had its own police.

"A church structure creates a hierarchy of who answers to whom," said Rep. Chris England, a Tuscaloosa Democrat.

The church says the department would mirror those that already exist at many colleges and universities. It would not have a jail or dispatch center and would instead cooperate with surrounding police agencies if someone needs to be detained, according to documents church administrator Matt Moore provided.

"The sole purpose of this proposed legislation is to provide a safe environment for the church, its members, students and guests," the church said in a statement.

Church officers would be trained to state policing standards and have all the duties and powers as other law enforcement, but they will be confined to the church's sprawling grounds in the suburb of Vestavia Hills, plus the church's secondary school in nearby Shelby County. The bill would allow Briarwood to hire as many officers as it wants.

Co-sponsor Rep. Allen Treadaway, a Birmingham police captain, said if a wealthy church can attract and retain officers, let it do so.

"They're struggling to have enough security on that campus," said Treadaway, a Republican.

Nationwide, many places of worship have added cameras and security guards, but a church with its own sworn-in police department would be unique, said Carl Chinn, who authored a book titled "Evil Invades Sanctuary: The Case for Security in Faith-Based Organizations."

Chinn compiles instances on violence in religious centers through news reports. Last year, he found 246 violent incidents — a 141 percent increase from 2010. Attackers used firearms in more than half of all 1,457 incidents since he started putting the figures together in 1999. About 3 percent of all the attacks Chinn counted occurred at Presbyterian churches.

At a recent Sunday morning service, some of the faithful said they would welcome the added security, especially since state laws do not forbid people from carrying guns in churches.

"You've got to have some presence here," said Jeff Siren, 61, who has worshipped at Briarwood since 1998. "Anyone can wander in here unchallenged at any time."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Historic church completely destroyed by fire in Salford

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Monday 13 Feb 2017 6:40 am



(Picture: LNP)

A historic church in Salford has been engulfed by flames.

Firefighters battled the blaze as it destroyed the roof of the Grade II listed Church of the Ascension, which was built in 1869.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service said six engines were sent to the scene in Ascension Road after being called shortly before 11.10pm on Sunday.

Liam Cole, 17, rushed to the church after seeing flames from his nearby home.



(Picture: LNP)

The fast food restaurant worker said: 'Initially I have seen a flash of orange light when I went to the bathroom.

'I ran outside realising it was really close and then I have seen it's my local church.

'Initially it wasn't that bad but all of a sudden it was engulfed in flames and the roof started falling through.

'There was a lot of ash and smoke from the roof going on the people standing very close.'



(Picture: LNP)

Liam said he ushered away children and elderly people and checked they were not hurt using first aid knowledge learned at the City of Salford Squadron Air Cadets.

The fire brigade said no one was injured in the blaze, which was brought under control in the early hours.

Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Drought drives huge, deadly cobra to calmly drink from a villager's water bottle

2017-03-28 19:06:28 UTC

mashable.com

SAM SPEEDY Mar 28, 2017



King cobras are not known for their gentle nature-- the whole point of "snake charming" is that it's dangerous to even be around them-- but the drought currently gripping Southern India has at least one animal so dehydrated that its less-than-friendly instincts were replaced with those of survival.

A 12-foot-long cobra was rescued after straying to a village, where it was believed to be looking for water. Southern India has been at the mercy of an extended, extreme drought that has greatly impacted both drinking water supplies and

agriculture. It has affected the lives of tens of thousands of families in the area, and also, apparently, the wildlife.

A rescue worker offered this parched snake water from the bottle almost immediately upon rescuing it and the snake very calmly drank its fill.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances, there's just something about a snake sipping straight from the bottle that's *charming* in its own right. Sorry.

- ©2005-2017 Mashable, Inc.

Mashable is a global, multi-platform media and entertainment company. Powered by its own proprietary technology, Mashable is the go-to source for tech, digital culture and entertainment content for its dedicated and influential audience around the globe.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Inside the 'Satanic' home where police freed five children from their parents

metro.co.uk

Charles White Thursday 16 Feb 2017 5:39 pm



The children were apparently 'drugged up' and dancing (Picture: CEN)

**Five children have been freed by police after they were seen to be malnourished and were reportedly on drugs.**

The police have now taken the kids away from their American-Colombian parents after neighbours saw them 'dancing around' with 'Satanic symbols' on them.

The children were freed after neighbours heard concerning screams from the Bucaramanga,

Colombia, flat.

Reportedly the children showed signs of malnutrition and abuse.

Police reported the flat was filled with smoke and that they found 'burnt offerings' after breaking open the door.

Colombian police rescue kids from abusive parents <http://metro.co.uk/video/1413941>



This is a modal window.

They also reportedly found four children aged between two and six, and a three-month-old baby.

The names of the 49-year-old mother and her American husband have not been revealed but both were said to be under the effect of either alcohol or drugs.

Apparently 'agitated', the parents were also housing cannabis plants at their flat and police found broken glass and dog excrement strewn across the floor.

Messages seen from outside the flat show graffiti such as 'US=Enemies, 666' and 'Mundo de la mentira' or 'World of lies'.

Neighbours called the alarm and police rescued five kids (Picture: CEN)

The children were apparently whisked away to hospital, with a baby said to have dermatitis and conjunctivitis.





Their parents were transferred to San Camilo psychiatric hospital where they are said to be under medical surveillance.

Neighbours called the alarm and police rescued five kids (Picture: CEN)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Amazing colourised photos show what prohibition in 1920s America was really like...from secret boozing in cafes to barrels of ale poured down the DRAIN

thesun.ie

The Irish Sun, A News Ireland Company

### Amazing colourised photos show what prohibition in 1920s America was really like...from secret boozing in cafes to barrels of ale poured down the DRAIN

The extraordinary photos were snapped in 1920s America when booze was banned from being sold

By Jennifer Newton

13th March 2017, 11:12 am

Updated: 14th March 2017, 10:57 am

FROM sneaking a swig of whisky in cafes to pour alcohol straight down the drain, these fascinating colourised pictures show the prohibition era like never before.

The pictures were snapped in 1920s America when booze was banned and selling it on the black market was rampant.



*New York City Deputy Police Commissioner John A. Leach, right, watches agents pour liquor into a sewer following a raid during the height of prohibition*



*Police in Washington DC stand alongside a wrecked car and cases of moonshine in 1922*



*After a thrilling chase through the busiest streets of Washington, a couple of bootleggers and their car crash into*



### Capitol police



*Prohibition agents stand alongside their car which has a 'stop when you see this' sign attached to it*

extraordinary photos were in a collection held by the Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington DC but have now been dramatically brought to life with colour by British expert Tom Marshall.

And among the images is one hilarious snap of a lady seen pulling a bottle of whisky from her bootleg.

While another shows a beaming woman sneaking alcohol from a walking cane and pouring it into her soda at an American cafe.



*A woman pulls a hip flask from her boot to have a sneaky swig of alcohol in 1922*



*A woman sits next to a soda fountain table and pours alcohol into a cup from her walking cane in 1922*

Tom said: "I was asked to colourise these images of the Prohibition, perfectly capturing both the fashion and atmosphere of this fascinating chapter in American history.

"In January 1919 the American Congress passed the Eighteenth Amendment, outlawing alcohol

and ushering in the infamous Prohibition era.

## SEEING DOUBLE

Aldi's vintage-looking vinyl record player is €180 cheaper than posh version - can you tell the difference?

"Those who opposed the law found ever-creative ways to enjoy a drink

"Bootlegging was rampant, as were stores and clubs who secretly served liquor.

"These became known as 'speakeasies' since customers had to keep their voices down to avoid attracting police attention."

These colourised images show 'Prohibition agents' and the official badges they used to pull over suspicious automobiles during the Prohibition era.

The liquor ban ended in 1933 when President Franklin Roosevelt signed a new amendment which approved the manufacture and sale of beer and light wines.

Later that year the Prohibition was completely abolished when a new amendment made the production and consumption of all alcohol legal again.





A woman holds a poster calling for prohibition to be scrapped in 1931



The Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform protest at the ballot box

Tom explained: "One of the many factors that influenced this decision was the Great Depression which hit in 1930.

"The American government realised that they could make millions of dollars by taxing alcohol."

Last week we brought you a fascinating collection of mugshots from the 1920s that showed suave men in smart suits and ties and women with curled hair and pearls.

We also showed you amazing black and white photos of the brutal lives of gun-toting Depression era gangsters in America.



A man carries a case of 'Four Roses' whiskey on his shoulders after it was confiscated by the US Internal Revenue Bureau

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by

the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Drug a coma in a bottle

20/02/2017

news.com.au

### The drug that caused almost 40 overdoses in Melbourne

February 20, 2017 5:31pm



**A DRUG that melts plastic and has the nickname “coma in a bottle” has had a devastating impact on Melbourne’s party scene.**

GBL is believed to be the cause of almost 40 overdoses in the city on the weekend, with people unknowingly taking the drug, which is a derivative of GHB.

People were being carried away on stretchers one after the other after consuming the potentially fatal substance.

A paramedic helps a man who overdosed on GHB outside Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Picture: Jason Edwards

Ambulance Victoria said the fact there were no deaths as a result of drugs at the Electric Parade music festival in Melbourne and the White Night event was “good luck rather than anything else”.

GBL is much the same as GHB and when taken, the body converts GBL into GHB, but it is often more toxic.

“It’s a drug that causes people to become unconscious, slows the heart rate and can cause seizures,” Ambulance Victoria state health commander Paul Holman said.

The Electric Parade festival was “awash with drugs” and there was a serious risk of death.

“It’s the highest number of overdoses we have seen at a music event for some time,” he said.



Bottle of GBL, also known as coma in a bottle.

Bottle of GBL, also known as coma in a bottle. *Source: News Corp Australia*

GHB and GBL are often taken by people who want to lose their inhibitions or experience a mild euphoric and relaxed feeling. It also helps you sleep and can be used as a supplement when body building.

According to the World Health Organisation, Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL), is a solvent found in paint strippers, nail polish remover, stain removers and circuit board cleaners.

It’s known on the street as midnight blue, blue nitro and paint stripper and it’s most commonly taken orally in a liquid form.

The substance can also come in a powder and it is mostly dissolved in drinks.

GBL has similar effects to GHB but can cause psychosis, paranoia, hallucinations, loss of body control and irregular heart rhythms.

GBL can be easier to obtain than heroin and even easier to overdose on. GBL can be made with a number of legal chemicals that can be found in your garage.

It can be purchased online easily and is often marketed as a cleaning agent.



Forensic toxicologist at Safework Laboratories, Andrew Leibie, said he first saw the drug in the early 2000s but it was not common in Australia.



*Queensland woman Dianne Brimble died after ingesting GHB.*

Queensland woman Dianne Brimble died after ingesting GHB. *Source: News Corp Australia*

He said it was not a drug popular in rave and festival scenes and is more traditionally a date rape drug.

"It's odourless, colourless and typically available as a liquid," he told news.com.au.

"It has a strong amnesiac effect and causes disinhibition and makes you up for anything.

"It mixes very badly with alcohol, even if you just have one or two drinks."

Mr Leibie said it was harder for police to detect GHB because they were mostly looking for methamphetamine

or ecstasy and MDMA.

GHB is also known as "liquid fantasy" and was the drug that killed Dianne Brimble in 2002 while she was on a P&O cruise ship.

After an inquest into her death in 2010, it was determined she was unknowingly drugged.

Mr Leibie said it was very hard to manage the liquid doses of GHB and GBL and large doses could kill.

GHB and GBL only stay in your system for about two days and Mr Leibie said it would not be detected in a roadside drug test.

If drug testing was legalised in Australia, Mr Leibie said there'd even need to be very specialised equipment to detect it.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation spokeswoman Ilka Burnham-King said it was clear we were running out of ideas to reduce harm and drug overdoses.

"We can't keep drugs out of a festival and our options are running out. We could ban festivals, but people are still going to take drugs so it just displaces the issue," she said.

Ms Burnham-King believes Victoria should introduce drug testing to see if we can produce the same results here as overseas.

Drug testing has been in place in other countries for years, and has significantly decreased the number of overdoses and drug deaths.

"It's not a radical idea, it's been happening for years and years and not only does it save lives, but it gives data around the drugs people are taking and what's emerging," she said.

"If somebody tested drugs we would have seen in the system there was a dodgy batch of GHB and put out a warning."

Ms Burnham-King said this was a nationwide problem and we needed to make a change before more people were killed by drugs.

"If you always do what you've always done then you always get what you've always got," she said.

"What is it going to take until both sides of government realise they don't have any other options available than trialling drug testing?"



"It has proved to work overseas so let's trial it here."



A man is taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB in Melbourne. Picture: Jason Edwards

A man is taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB in Melbourne. Picture: Jason Edwards Source: News Corp Australia

Ms Burnham-King said Australia used to be progressive when it came to drug harm reduction.

"We introduced the needle exchange, but right now, we are seriously behind the times when it comes to drug policy."

Ms Burnham-King said drug testing was controversial because some believed it would encourage people to take them.

"Australia doesn't need any encouragement to take drugs. We are the number one ecstasy user in the world and in the top three for other drugs," she said.

"We have an insatiable appetite and this war against drugs, expecting people not to take drugs hasn't worked, so what do we do differently that minimises harm and prevents fatalities?"

A man rang 3AW on Monday morning and said he had some experience with GHB.

"On my first date ever with my current partner, we were out at a nightclub and she had her drink spiked with it," he said.

"Within minutes she was limp, couldn't stand up and really not in a good way. By time I got her in a cab and got her home her eyes started rolling into the back of her head and she was having small little fits."

After he got his partner to the hospital, they were told she consumed GHB and as she mixed it with alcohol, it could have killed her.

She only had a drop of GHB, about a millilitre to a millilitre and a half.

Police have cast doubt over the future of the Electric Parade music festival where dozens of revellers were treated for the serious drug overdoses.

Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane says police will meet with organisers of the festival to discuss whether they should be allowed to host future events after a number of revellers were left in a critical condition on Saturday.

"(We will determine) whether they should be allowed access to another venue," Mr Leane said.

Mr Leane says police will also be speaking with management at Sidney Myer Music Bowl, where the festival was held, and City of Melbourne over the event which clashed with the scheduling of the similarly "high risk" event, White Night.

Police Minister Lisa Neville said organisers needed to have good security and send out the right messages to concertgoers.

"Police will be working with the organisers of these events — we need to make sure that the organisers are also stepping up to ensure that we are reducing access and the availability of these drugs," she told reporters on Monday.

Ms Neville ruled out pill testing at such events, saying testing would not change "the fact these drugs are bad for you and they are illegal in Victoria."

— with AAP

News Limited Copyright © 2017. All times AEDT (GMT +11).

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Community concerned that drained lake in Powhatan puts their safety at risk

wtvr.com

Posted 11:08 pm, March 28, 2017, by Chelsea RarrickUpdated at 11:26PM, March 28, 2017

POWHATAN COUNTY, Va. -- It was October of 2015 when Lake Louise in the Red Land Subdivision in Powhatan was drained of all its water.

A riser, known as an overflow pipe, ruptured and nearly all the water was gone overnight.

"When it ruptured, it caused the water to go straight through. In other words, the bottom of it sprung a leak," said Joe Washington, who lives on Lake Louise Drive.



The draining left the community devastated and concerned.

Residents said they're worried about public safety, as the lake was a water source for the fire department.

"Because it's not right now, it puts our neighborhood in jeopardy," said Hallie Chambers who also lives on Lake Louise.

Neighbors told CBS 6 insurance rates have also gone up, and property values have gone down since the water is gone.

Lake Louise is also one of 72 dry hydrants in Powhatan County for volunteer firefighters when they need extra water

"We had a fire last year at a garage up here and they just couldn't get the trucks fast enough from other places to put it out," said Washington.



*Lake Louise before photo*

To help get the lake back, residents have created a GoFundMe account to raise funds for the labor. A total of \$18,000 is needed and the group has raised around \$6,000 so far.

"Everyone wants the lake back," said Washington.

CBS 6 reached out to the Powhatan County fire department Tuesday afternoon. A woman who answered was aware of the concerns regarding the dry hydrant, and was working to put us in touch with the Fire Chief.





Lake Louise before photo

Online Public File • Terms of Service  
• Privacy Policy  
• 3301 W Broad Street Richmond  
VA 23230  
• Copyright © 2017, WTVR  
• A Tribune Broadcasting Station •  
Powered by WordPress.com VIP

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## That's what we call a snow bomb

metro.co.uk

This site uses cookies. By continuing, your consent is assumed. [Learn more](#)

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Mar 2017 11:20 am



*That's what we call a snow bomb*

Now that's a snow bomb (Picture: YouTube/Nick Colvin)

**With even wet leaves likely to grind British public transport to a halt, a train ploughing through snow might seem a bit of a novel experience.**

But still these commuters in New York probably weren't expecting to get quite so covered in the white stuff when a train pulled into Rhinecliff Station on Wednesday.

Yet, to say they were covered doesn't really do it justice, if this video by Nick Colvin captured from the platform is anything to go by.

One woman looked as if she was absolutely wiped out by the wall of snow and according to reports some passengers were swept off their feet.

Storm Stella has dumped more than 3ft of snow in some parts of the north eastern United States and shut down major cities including New York and Boston.

Commuters get covered in snow by train



Two people were knocked off their feet by the snow (Picture: YouTube/Nick Colvin)

Storm Stella has dumped more than 3ft of snow in some parts of the north eastern United States (Picture: YouTube/Nick Colvin)

Still passengers weren't expecting this (Picture: YouTube/Nick Colvin)



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Cuban wine maker uses very interesting item to create his wines

metro.co.uk

Fiona Parker for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 4 Apr 2017 11:38 am



*Cuban wine made using condoms*

Orestes Estevez poses with his wine (Picture: AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

A family winery in Havana uses an unusual product to help ferment their product.

Orestes Estevez and his family fill glass jugs with grapes, ginger and hibiscus, before slipping a condom over each glass jug.

The unusual production process at the Cuba's 'El Canal' winery has produced thousands of gallons of wine, according to the New York Post.

Orestes, 65, has been in the winemaking business since 2000, when communist Cuba began to allow private enterprise.

Today the 65-year-old, his wife, son and an assistant tend to 300 jugs containing 20 litres of wine each.



*Cuban wine made using condoms*

Condom-capped wine jugs (Picture: AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Tropical fruits and vegetables are added to Cuban grapes to make the wine.

Orestes then caps the bottles with condoms, which slowly inflate as the fruity mix ferments and gasses as produced.

When the fermentation is complete, the condom stops inflating and collapses.

This means the wine is ready for bottling.

He said: 'Putting a condom on a bottle is just like with a man.'

Orestes sells around 50 bottles each day (Picture: AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

'It stands up, the wine is ready, and then the process is completed.'

It takes between a month and 45 days to produce a jar of wine at 'El Canal' and around 50 bottles are sold each day.

At 10 Cuban pesos (40 cents) a bottle, it's a cheap alternative to imported wine, which often sells for at least half of the average \$25 Cuban monthly wage.



Cuban wine made using condoms

But Orestes is not the only Cuban finding alternative uses for the latex products.

The U.S trade embargo and issues with Cuba's economy mean thousands of products are difficult to get hold of.

Some fishermen on Havana's seaside promenade inflate condoms to use as improvised floats.

These carry bait far out to sea and increase resistance against tugging fish.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Construction unearths centuries-old coffins in Philadelphia

yahoo.com

**AP** KRISTEN DE GROOT  
Associated Press March 9, 2017



Workers excavate a coffin from a construction site in the Old City neighborhood, Thursday, March 9, 2017, in Philadelphia. Crews working on an apartment building in Philadelphia's historic district got a shock last month when their backhoes started hitting coffins and unearthing fully intact human remains. The site was supposed to be a former burial ground from 1707, and all remains were supposedly exhumed in the 1800s and moved to a different cemetery. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Construction crews working on an apartment building in Philadelphia's historic district got a shock last month when their backhoes started hitting coffins and unearthing fully intact human remains.

Now, forensic scientists and students at Rutgers University-Camden are working to recover as many of the 18th century remains as they can, to analyze them and find out who these people were, said Kimberlee Moran, an associate professor and director of forensics at the university.

"We're trying to help this forgotten group of individuals," Moran said Thursday.

The site near the Betsy Ross House was supposedly a decommissioned burial ground for the First Baptist Church, established in 1707. When the church moved to a larger location around 1860, all remains were to have been exhumed and re-interred at Mount Moriah Cemetery southwest of the city, according to historical documents.

But as PMC Properties, the general contractor and owner of the site, started work on the 10-story, 116-unit apartment building, it became apparent not all of the remains were moved.

In the fall, workers found a smattering of bones at the site. When they hit coffins, the company contacted archaeologists.

As many as 60 individuals have been found since February. On Thursday, workers uncovered about two dozen intact coffins and were to continue working through the weekend, she said.

The remains will be taken to a forensic-osteology lab at Rutgers-Camden, where they will be documented, cleaned and analyzed. There, researchers will be able to determine the gender, ethnicity and age at death, likely finishing up in the summer, Moran said.

They hope to re-inter the bodies at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

There are no state or city regulations on how to handle bones being unearthed unless it is at a government project, said Paul Steinke, executive director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.



Therefore, the company had no obligation to turn the area into an archaeological dig or halt construction.

"We are trying our best to be respectful of what we found," said Jonathan Stavin, executive vice president of PMC Property Group. "We are willing to allow this process to continue until it is completed."

He said the excavation hasn't significantly delayed construction and it should be completed on time.

"We have our project to build, but we are trying to do the right thing here," Stavin said.

---

This story has been corrected to show Mount Moriah Cemetery is southwest of the city, not north.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Countdown champion who travelled 400 miles to attack girl blames voices in head

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.uk Monday 3 Apr 2017 12:11 pm



*Countdown champion who travelled 400 miles to attack girl blames 'voices' in his head*

Richard Brittain, 29, travelled from his home in London to attack a 17-year-old girl at her work in Asda after she gave him a bad book review on Goodreads. (Picture: Glasgow Sheriff Court)

**A Countdown champion who was jailed for travelling 400 miles to attack a teengirl after she gave him a bad book review says voices told him he was the 'devil'.**

Richard Brittain, 29, travelled 400 miles from Bedford to Glenrothes, in Fife, Scotland to attack Paige Rolland, who had left a negative review about Brittain's published book, *The World Rose*, on Goodreads in 2015.

After finding her at an Asda store in Glenrothes, Fife, where she worked, he smashed a full wine bottle over her head, knocking her unconscious.



Paige Roland, from Glenrothes, was hit on the head with a bottle by Richard Brittain (Picture: Paul Chappells)

Paige told the Daily Record: 'I could have died had he hit me any harder. The effect on me has been enormous.'

The 29-year-old admitted attacking the teen and also to using social media to terrorise university classmate Ella Durant after she moved from London to Glasgow, and was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Yet after serving half the time, he is now free and started a blog 'Putting New Wine in New Bottles'.

Countdown bottle attacker Richard Brittain talks about

win<http://metro.co.uk/video/1440649>

This is a modal window.

In it, he discusses being attacked by a fellow inmate which he says led to a psychotic episode.

He wrote: 'I was only subjected to violence on one occasion, when I was momentarily strangled by a psychotic inmate for no obvious reason.'



'This triggered some sort of psychosis in me, as I got a voice in the head telling me that I was the devil.

'The voice later told me to stare directly at the sun, which I did for several days.'



Brittain was crowned Countdown champion in 2006 (Picture: Countdown)

Brittain also boasted about how he spent most of his time watching TV box sets including the series Dexter, which is about a serial killer.

In another blog, he revealed that he met rapist George Cameron, 37, who hanged himself in his cell last June.

*Countdown champion who travelled 400 miles to attack girl blames 'voices' in his head*

He described the fellow inmate as 'pleasant' and praised the 'homely

atmosphere' of his cell – which the 29-year-old inherited after his death.

Brittain, who was crowned Countdown champion in 2006, also claimed being locked up was 'good for the soul' claiming his time behind bars had 'brought him closer to God'.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

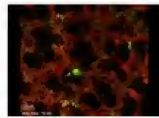


# newser

READ LESS **KNOW MORE**



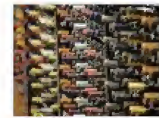
Scientists Issue Dire Warning on Christ's Tomb



Science's Surprising Discovery: Lungs Aren't Just for Breathing



This Man Lived 700 Years Ago



Scientist: I've Fixed Age-Old Problem of Wine Bottles

SCIENCE / BUGS

Go to Grid

Next Story

## Couple Donates Massive Bug Collection Worth \$10M

Charles and Lois O'Brien spent 60 years amassing their collection



By **Michael Harthorne**, Newser Staff  
Posted Mar 24, 2017 4:00 PM CDT



**Charles W. and Lois B. O'Brien Insect Systematics Endowment**

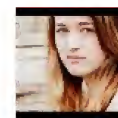
from **ASU Now**

02:51

Charles and Lois O'Brien are donating their \$10 million insect collection to Arizona State University. (Vimeo)

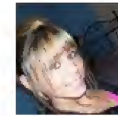
(**NEWSER**) – Lois O'Brien tells the *Guardian* she and husband Charles have had "sort of an Indiana Jones life." But instead of ancient artifacts, the O'Briens spent 60 years collecting insects across 70 countries and seven continents. Those bugs—approximately 1.25 million of them—now fill more than 1,200 glass drawers in the O'Briens' home, the *Arizona Republic* reports. But not for long. Charles and Lois are donating their collection—valued at \$10 million—to Arizona State University. The O'Briens' bugs represent one of the largest private collections in the world and will more than double ASU's collection. **ASU** says Charles and Lois are "two of the world's foremost entomologists," and the dean of the Division of Natural Sciences calls the donation a "transformative gift."

### Popular on Newser



State Bills Teen Killed in Car Crash for Damaged Guardrail

1



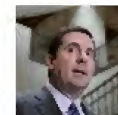
FBI Searching for Teen Who May Have Been Tossed Into Gator Pit

2



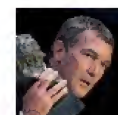
Trump Is Hitting Republicans Hard

3



Nunes' Abrupt Exit From an Uber Ride Is Making Headlines

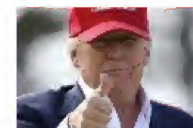
4



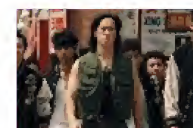
Antonio Banderas Had a Heart Attack

5

### Other Stories On Our Radar



These Businesses W Trump. Are You in One of Them?



The Rise of NYC's Most Terrifying Chinese-American Gang



The Grimy Side of Hawaii You'll Never See in Travel Guides

insects that are "new to science." Lois, 89, and Charles, 83, met at the University of Arizona in the 1950s when he was an entomology teaching assistant and she was a student. "We were brought together by insects," Charles tells the *Guardian*. Lois says their shared passion helped keep them together, and they've had a "great life." "We've traveled and experienced all kinds of exciting things," she tells the *Republic*.

 View 1 image

My Take on This Story

Show results without voting | Report a story error

HILARIOUS

INTRIGUING

DEPRESSING


BRILLIANT

SCARY


RIDICULOUS

You Might Like

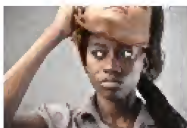
Sponsored by ZergNet




Could Dump Trump



This School Burglar Was Literally Caught With His Pants Down by Police



I Believed in Reverse Racism — Then I Moved to the Deep South



How Chinese Tourists Are Redefining the American Road Trip

Next on Newser: Suspect in Wisconsin Shooting Spree Identified

Partner Links

Comments

Read comment policy

News from dashboard.idealmedia.com

SHOWING 3 OF 34 COMMENTS

n

K.C.

Mar 25, 2017 6:49 PM CDT

Wow, just the kind of marriage I'd love to have—if I knew anything, which I don't. But also, the photo sure is fascinating and I would love to know what it is. It looks more like a mammal than an insect to me.

n

SS Bdm Fuhress 'Savannah

Mar 25, 2017 6:15 PM CDT

Gee if dead bugs are worth that then I am a Kazillionaire! Elizabeth of Newser, keep and eye out for a F-40 Ferrari coming up the drive with a Psycho in it!

n

Luna Azure


Mar 25, 2017 1:07 PM CDT

That's how marriages last. Have something in common besides whiny kids and grandkids waiting for you to die.


View all 34 comments

Leave a comment


News From Our Partners




CAUGHT ON VIDEO: Suspect Pulls Gun In Queens Armed Robbery, Police



Meet the Original Nazi-Puncher



Can you tell the difference between these tins? Here's what you should



Mr. Bean Got Photoshopped Onto These Heroes And The Internet Can't

http://www.newser.com/story/240279/couple-donates-massive-bug-collection-worth-10m.html?utm\_source=fark&utm\_medium=referral&utm\_campaign=im&u... 2/3

[TRENDING NEWS](#)[US](#)[WORLD](#)[SCIENCE](#)[CRIME](#)[POLITICS](#)[GREAT FINDS](#)[ENTERTAINMENT](#)[MORE](#)

Veteran Newsmen Ted Koppel Tells Fox News' Sean Hannity He's 'Bad For America'

The Best Bleeding Veggie Burger You'll Ever Have

George Lopez isn't backing off his Ivanka Trump comment

'Cash Me Outside' Girl's Mom Is Getting Sued After Crazy Pizzeria Beatdown

Actress, Producer-Writer Of 'Orange Is The New Black' Marry

Remembering New York's Most Storied Reporter

Zookeepers were in shock after a crocodile did this to his friend during...

Cruel Man To Serve 5 Years In Prison After Sealing Dog's Mouth Shut With Tape

[Go to CBS Local](#)

[Go to Ozy](#)

[Go to Rare](#)

[Go to Elite Daily](#)

Other Sites We Like

Fox News Magazine

*M*

POPSUGAR.

Aol.com

Ranker

Partnering With 

## Newser In Your Inbox

Get The Morning 8: The eight stories you need to know, bright and early.  
View all Newsletters and sign up

## Get Newser Apps



iPhone  
iPad

Android

Windows Phone  
Windows Tablet

RSS Feed



Contact Us

[NEWSER TEAM](#)[ABOUT US](#)[HELP](#)[TERMS OF USE](#)[SITEMAP](#)[PRIVACY POLICY](#)



OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYS&SELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS

## NEWS

# Are these creepiest museum exhibits ever? Macabre display includes DEMONIC NUN and 'monkey chef' holding decapitated cat's head

They have been terrifying the Twitter-sphere with their collections' creepiest dolls, paintings and often bizarre dioramas

BY KEYAN MILANIAN

22:27, 16 FEB 2017 | UPDATED 08:04, 17 FEB 2017



**Stephanie Hall**  
@StephanieMPR

Follow

This is getting a lot of [#Creepy](#) love: Ten of the Creepiest Antique Automaton We've Ever Seen [ow.ly/g6CJ3091WdV](#) ... via [@JustCollecting](#)  
7:29 AM - 15 Feb 2017

These are the nightmare-inducing exhibits that museum bosses have been sharing online.

They have been terrifying the Twitter-sphere with their collections' creepiest dolls, paintings and often bizarre dioramas.

[OFFERS](#) [FANTASY](#) [BINGO](#) [DATING](#) [JOBS](#) [BUYSELL](#) [COMPETITIONS](#) [HOROSCOPES](#) [PSYCHIC](#) [CARTOONS](#) [CROSSWORDS](#)

swallowed its prey.

Another bizarre model is of a monkey chef with what appears to be a pie with a cat's head baked inside.

[READ MORE](#)

► Haunting image of ghostly little girl standing in a corridor at town hall sparks political row



(Photo: @PotteriesMuseum/Twitter)

OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



(Photo: @TankMuseum/Twitter)

Dressed in chef's whites, the humanoid marsupial can be seen lifting the lid of the pie to reveal the decapitated head beneath.



OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



(Photo: @NMSCollMan/Twitter)

[OFFERS](#) [FANTASY](#) [BINGO](#) [DATING](#) [JOBS](#) [BUYSELL](#) [COMPETITIONS](#) [HOROSCOPES](#) [PSYCHIC](#) [CARTOONS](#) [CROSSWORDS](#)

Many of the creepiest exhibits were dolls.



**Philbrook Museum**

@Philbrook

[Follow](#)

The creepiest piece in our collection? Certainly a contender.

[#museum101](#) [#comeplaywithusdanny](#)

1:58 PM - 16 Feb 2017

1

6





[OFFERS](#) [FANTASY](#) [BINGO](#) [DATING](#) [JOBS](#) [BUYSELL](#) [COMPETITIONS](#) [HOROSCOPES](#) [PSYCHIC](#) [CARTOONS](#) [CROSSWORDS](#)





[OFFERS](#) [FANTASY](#) [BINGO](#) [DATING](#) [JOBS](#) [BUYSELL](#) [COMPETITIONS](#) [HOROSCOPES](#) [PSYCHIC](#) [CARTOONS](#) [CROSSWORDS](#)



(Photo: @PuseyHouseLib/Twitter)

[READ MORE](#)

► Mum who lost baby at birth says picture captures 'spirit of tot returning to watch over twin sister'

One, which appears to be that of a nun, lies beneath what appears to be a perspex container, its eyes barely open in its hood-framed face.



**MuseumVenturaCounty**  
@MuseumVenturaCo

[Follow](#)

"Museums Share Creepiest Possessions on Twitter?" Okay, but this critter is beloved also! [#2headedlamb](#) [#museum101](#)

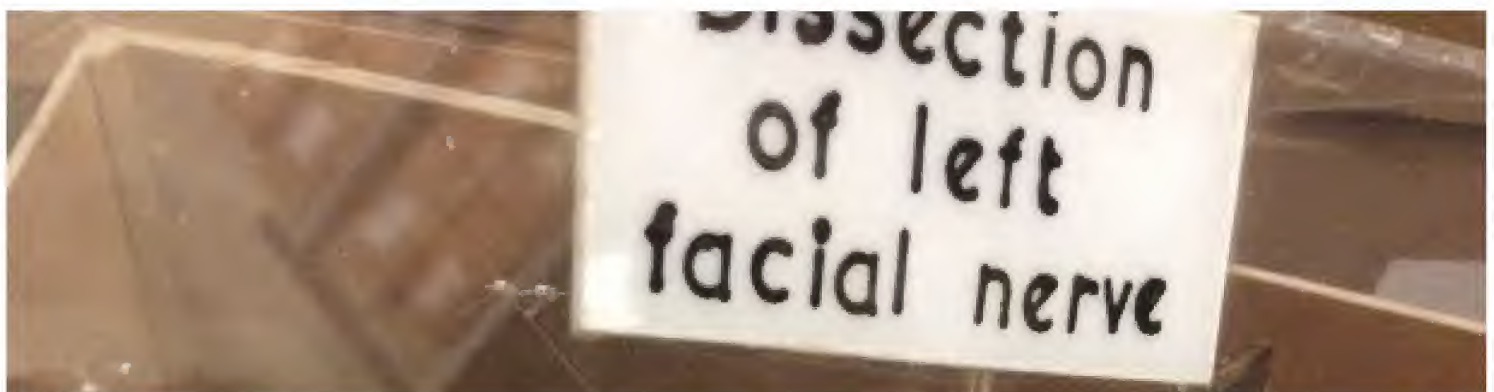
2:00 PM - 16 Feb 2017

3 5

OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



(Photo: WorthingMuseum/Twitter)





OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



(Photo: @RCPSGLibrary/Twitter)

Another of a woman or little girl wearing a green checked dress with braids has a bizarre, possibly wooden, moveable mouth and frightening lifelike eyes.

And a doll in another museum, wearing a blue dress, has eyes that have rolled back into its head and a strangely misshapen and over sized head.



OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYS&SELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



MORE ON

Art

Museums



## Builder shoots himself in the crotch with hydraulic nail gun

metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 21 Feb 2017 12:17 pm



*Builder shoots himself in the crotch with hydraulic nail gun*

The three and a half inch nail was embedded into his crotch (Picture: Mercury)

**Warning: These images are not for the faint of heart.**

This builder is extremely lucky to be alive after accidentally shooting himself in the crotch with a hydraulic nail gun.

Sam Rees, 22, mistimed firing the gun and a three and a half inch-long nail pierced his groin millimetres from a major artery – not to mention a little to close for comfort to his penis.

Images of the grisly injury were captured by Sam's colleague Mathew Meagher, 30, while the pair were working on a site outside Swansea, Wales.

Sam, from Port Talbot, was rushed to A&E and needed minor surgery to remove the nail, which was embedded nearly three inches into his body – missing a major artery by just millimetres.

Construction worker Sam said: 'I was using a nail gun outside and unfortunately I was using it to fire something towards me and the nail just ricocheted and went into my groin.



Sam Rees was apparently unfazed by the accident (Picture: Facebook/Mercury)



The builder accidentally shot himself with a hydraulic nail gun (Picture: Mercury)

'The nail was 90mm long and it was embedded 70mm deep. Doctors said it missed my artery by 10mm. If I had pulled it out myself I would have bled to death.

'I didn't really realise how serious the whole thing was until I got to the hospital. I had to have minor surgery

to take it out – but having the drip in my arm hurt more.

'I have been having a bit of stick from my colleagues. But if you do something stupid you expect it.'

Stunned Mathew said Sam 'wasn't fazed' as he stood in front of him with the heavy-duty nail embedded in his nether regions.

He said his colleague asked him whether he should pull the nail out himself but advised against this straight away for fear of it causing even more damage.



After a gruelling hour-long drive from the site to A&E in Swansea, Mathew delivered Sam to the hospital doors and he was rushed straight to surgery but has since made a full recovery.

Mathew, who runs his own building company and has been a builder for 15 years, said: 'For want of a better phrase, the nail was pretty much through his d\*\*k.'



Ouch (Picture: Mercury)

'He came over to me and said he'd shot himself. It's something that shouldn't happen, and at first I couldn't see anything. And then I saw it. I just went white. I couldn't believe it.'

'When we got to A&E we were told to wait, but when we showed them where the nail was his was rushed straight to surgery.'

He added: 'It makes your eyes water. Even looking back I'm flinching. I'm very relieved it wasn't me. I had a couple of dates coming up that weekend.'

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive confirmed the incident had not been reported to them.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Japanese Bald Men Celebrate With Cueball Competition

huffingtonpost.com

**The main event is a version of tug-a-war with suction cups attached to each skull.**

 **REUTERS** Megumi Lim

More than 30 bald men gathered at a hot spring facility in Tsuruta City, Japan, on Wednesday to show off their hairless heads and have fun.

Members of the city's Bald Men Club took turns competing in a unique game of tug-of-war by sticking a suction cup, which is attached to a single red rope, to each of their heads. Both sides then attempt to pull the cup off of their opponent's head.

"My head still hurts," Toshiyuki Ogasawara, 43, said with a smile. "I think I need to ice it!"



Reuters Staff / Reuters

Masatomo Sasaki, 64, a first-time participant at the tournament, said he used to feel insecure about his baldness but now feels differently.

"I feel proud. Or maybe I should say, I feel good about being a bald man," Sasaki said, adding that he started losing his hair when he was 40. "And that is thanks to this bald men's club."

The club, which has attracted roughly 65 members from all over the country since its founding in 1989, encourages people to "view baldness in a positive manner, to have fun, and to brighten the world with our shiny heads," according to its website.

Teiji Sugo, 70, the club's chairman, hopes the gathering will turn into something much larger.

"I want all the bald men all over the world to gather here so we can organize a bald men's Olympic tournament," Sugo said.

The event is held every year on Feb. 22.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Customer loses hand after trying to mince his own meat at butchers metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 21 Feb 2017 8:31 pm



*Butcher loses hand in grinder accident*

The man had tried to mince his own meat after being refused service at the butchers (Picture: Google Maeps)

**A man has lost his hand after trying to mince his own meat after he was refused service at a butchers.**

The customer, who is believed to be aged 19 or 20, put his own meat in a grinder after arriving as Surrey Halal Meat

butchers was about to close its doors.

Malik Raza, who runs the butchers in New Malden, said the customer was collecting an order for someone and that he had gone into a walk-in fridge for 'just few minutes' when the incident occurred.

'He had come over the counter and took the mince in the cubes, and put them in the grinder to do it himself,' he said.

'He said he was in a rush. Why couldn't he wait? He started loudly crying and crying, so I came back. I saw his hand was stuck inside. I called 999 straightaway.

'The ambulance staff told me to go outside so I couldn't see what they were doing. My heart was beating so fast, I was so shocked. We were crying too.

'They said I shouldn't see what was going to happen.'

The accident happened shortly before 7:30pm on February 11

Malik, who runs the shop with his wife, added: 'It's very sad. We couldn't sleep or eat for two or three days, it was so disturbing.

'I have diabetes and it made it worse. We keep thinking about it. Nothing like this has ever happened to me before.'

Both the London Ambulance Service and firefighters from Wimbledon fire station were called to the butchers shop.

A spokesman from Wimbledon Fire Station confirmed the man lost his hand in the accident.

He said: 'The LAS were on the scene first. We were called because they needed our equipment to get him out.

'We had to reverse the grinder. His hand had to come out the way it had come in.'



A spokesman for London Fire Brigade added: 'We were called just before 7:50pm on February 11 to reports of a man with his hand trapped in a meat grinder.

"London Ambulance Service were already on the scene.

'We removed the main part of the unit and the man was taken to hospital, where we assisted in removing his hand from the machine.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Czar bust in Crimea reportedly appears to shed tears

yahoo.com

**AP** MOSCOW (AP) — Russian news reports say curious and pious people are visiting a bust of the last czar in the Crimean capital after reports spread that the sculpture appeared to be weeping.

The bust of Nicholas II was erected near the Crimean prosecutor's office in Simferopol in 2016, two years after Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine.

Nicholas II, like previous czars, is considered a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Reports of statues and other inanimate objects appearing to weep periodically surface in various religions.

Natalia Poklonskaya, the former Crimean prosecutor, called the appearance of moisture "a miracle that neither scientists or anyone can explain." She noted that it corresponds with the 100th anniversary of Nicholas II's abdication from power.

"The sovereign in helping us," she said Friday on Tsargrad TV.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Noble Co. attorney accused of embezzling \$63K

wane.com

By WANE Staff Reports Published: February 27, 2017, 4:08 pm Updated: February 27, 2017, 10:49 pm

NOBLE COUNTY, Ind. (WANE) – A Noble County attorney for an estate was arrested Monday for allegedly utilizing her position to make unauthorized cash withdrawals from the estate's account.



The arrest stemmed from an investigation that began in March of last year, which found that Diane Miller, 60, made unauthorized withdrawals from the estate totaling \$63,000, according to a press release from the Noble County Sheriff's Department.

Miller was charged with one felony count of theft. She was later released on her own recognizance, promising in writing to show up for future court appearances and not engage in illegal activity, the press release said.

A special prosecutor for the Kosciusko County Prosecutors Office has been appointed to prosecute the case.

© 2000-2017 WANE.com | Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc. | All rights reserved

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## 'Dead body' near memorial turns out to be sleeping man

By Joshua Smith 17:04, 23 FEB 2017 News

getsurrey.co.uk

### A woman phoned police after seeing what she thought was a dead body in Aldershot



Aldershot Wellington Statue

Police in Aldershot were called to woodland near the Wellington Memorial in Aldershot to reports of a dead body, only to arrive and find the person in question was simply asleep.

The "body" was spotted by a member of the public and reported to Hampshire Constabulary at 5.08pm on Tuesday (February 21).

Police officers attended the scene and spoke with the man, and "identified that no offences had taken place."

After the incident, @HCResponseCops tweeted: "Officers have just attended reports of a dead body in woodland in Aldershot. On arrival he got over it, and walked off. #JobLikeNoOther "

A spokesman from Hampshire Police said: "We were called at 5.08pm on Tuesday February 21 by a member of the public who, in good faith, reported that she believed she had seen the dead body of a man in woodland near the Wellington Memorial in Aldershot.

"Officers attended and spoke to the man, who had, in fact, been asleep.

"No offences were identified."

- © 2016 Trinity Mirror Southern

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Dead shark found in shopping cart outside Fla. Walmart

nydailynews.com



(St. Johns County Sheriff's Office)

Authorities are mystified as to why a 5-foot-long dead shark was left in the parking lot of a northeast Florida Wal-Mart just days before another dead shark was found nearby.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 11:30 AM

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Authorities are mystified as to why a 5-foot-long dead shark was left in the parking lot of a northeast Florida Wal-Mart just days before another dead shark was found nearby.

The St. Augustine Record reports St. Johns County Sheriff's deputies were called to the store parking lot last week after the shark was found in a shopping cart.

Deputies talked to the owner of an RV parked nearby and learned that the RV owner had woken to find the shark on his vehicle's hood. The owner said he then put it in the cart.

The sheriff's office says days later they were called to driveway in Vilano Beach and found another dead shark.

The deputies called in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to dispose of the sharks.

© Copyright 2017 NYDailyNews.com. All rights reserved.

# HYPERALLERGIC

## Death by Wallpaper: The Alluring Arsenic Colors that Poisoned the Victorian Age

Lucinda Hawksley's book *Bitten by Witch Fever* chronicles the rise of poisonous pigments in the 19th century through the burgeoning British wallpaper trade.



"A great deal of slow poisoning is going on in Great Britain," wrote Birmingham doctor William Hinds in 1857. He was among a growing movement of people concerned about a toxic killer in their daily lives: namely, their wallpaper.

Lucinda Hawksley's *Bitten by Witch Fever: Wallpaper & Arsenic in the Nineteenth-Century Home*, out this month from Thames & Hudson, chronicles the rise of poisonous pigments in the 19th century through the burgeoning British wallpaper trade. The beautifully designed book includes facsimiles of 275 Victorian wallpapers, all of which were found to contain arsenic after recent testing by the British National Archives.



Cover of Lucinda Hawksley's 'Bitten by Witch Fever' (courtesy Thames & Hudson)

The title is taken from a dismissive quote by the most famous wallpaper designer to come out of that time: William Morris. The "doctors were bitten as people were bitten by the witch fever," he wrote to his friend Thomas Wardle in 1885. In other words, it was all hysteria.

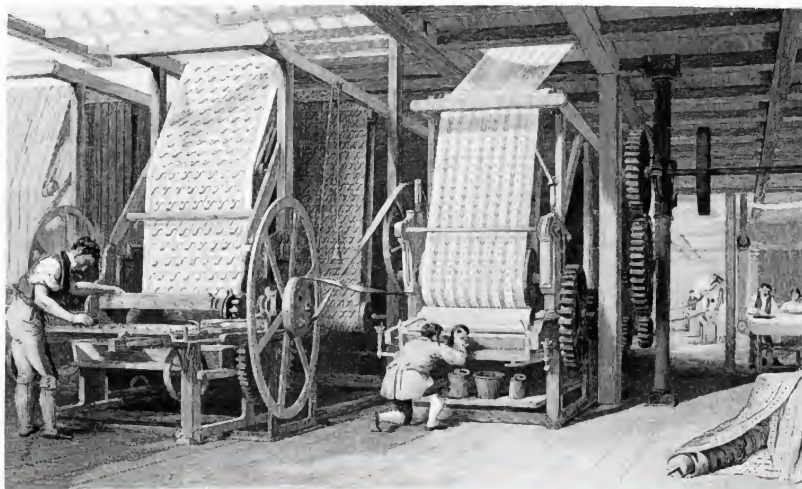
Morris didn't just have his identity as an artist linked to the wallpaper industry and its arsenic pigments, which allowed for the mass

production of newly vibrant and durable colors; his wealth also came from his family's mine, Devon Great Consols, which was among the leading producers of arsenic. Part of Hawksley's research was to delve into how Morris — a philanthropist who advocated for humane working conditions in his decorative arts company — overlooked the incredible hazards of the arsenic mine and the use of poison in his wallpaper.

"One of the great unanswered questions about Morris is why he never visited the mines or concerned himself with the welfare of the miners and their families," Hawksley writes. Perhaps, like much of the country, he was unable to resist the huge profits of the industry.

Back in 1771, Swedish chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele had developed a green pigment from a compound of copper arsenite. In 1814, Wilhelm Sattler, a German industrialist, seemingly perfected it by using arsenic and verdigris for a more steadfast green. The pigment could also be mixed to create bright yellows and rich blues, perfect for the Victorian craze for opulent interior design. In





1834, Britain produced 1,222,753 rolls of wallpaper; that number rose by 2,615% to 32,000,000 rolls in 1874.

That arsenic was poisonous was certainly not a secret; every Victorian home had a bit of the powder lying around for rats and mice, and people likely knew tales of the “inheritance powder” being used for murder. Yet they also applied arsenic cosmetics, gave their children toys painted with arsenic, wore dresses and hats dyed with arsenic, and ate meat



dipped into it to keep away flies. Alison Matthews David, in her 2015 book *Fashion Victims*, notes that as nature was vanishing from the industrial city, the “Emerald Green” became popular on artificial flowers worn in the hair. She points out that just as Baudelaire was titling his book of dark poems *Les Fleurs du Mal* (The Flowers of Evil), the death of a young Parisian artificial florist was being investigated in regards to the poisonous colors.



In some kind of disconnect, people believed that only by licking the walls would they get poisoned, or only by the green colors. In this way, it wasn't too different from the radium cosmetics that took off in the mid-20th century, even

while the potentially dangerous power of radiation was evident. Left untouched, Victorian wallpaper could still release flakes of arsenic into the air or produce arsenical gas when conditions were damp.

Hawksley adds that while other European countries regulated arsenic, Britain was slow, and it was only public demand and new dye techniques that changed the industry. Initial reports of wallpaper poisoning were shared in medical literature in the late 1850s, and in an especially horrifying incident in 1862, children died in an east London home after they'd torn down the wallpaper and licked the green off its surface. Queen Victoria reportedly had all the green wallpaper torn down in Buckingham Palace after a visiting dignitary became ill in 1879. Yet it wasn't until the Factory Workshop Acts of 1883 and 1895 that Parliament instituted any sort of regulations for conditions in factories where workers regularly encountered arsenic.



"It proved effective: arsenic was responsible for a mere 1 per cent of the cases involving industrial poisoning by the twentieth century," Hawksley writes of the new guidelines. By then, a consumer interest in "arsenic free" wallpaper had changed the market. "In the absence of government intervention, the people of Britain had used the power of their pocketbooks to make the presence of arsenic in wallpapers obsolete," she concludes, "and as a result, their homes no longer held a fatal secret."



*Lucinda Hawksley's Bitten by Witch Fever: Wallpaper & Arsenic in the Nineteenth-Century Home is out now from Thames & Hudson.*



playful, and radical thinking about art in the world today. Founded in 2009, Hyperallergic is headquartered in Brooklyn, New York.

©2017 Hyperallergic Media Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Hyperallergic is a forum for serious,

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Deep in Brazil's Amazon, Exploring the Ruins of Ford's Fantasyland nytimes.com



*Aging vehicles are stored in the old workshops of Fordlândia, Brazil, a community founded in 1928 by Henry Ford. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

FORDLÂNDIA, Brazil — The Amazon jungle already swallowed the Winding Brook Golf Course. Floods ravaged the cemetery, leaving behind a stockpile of concrete crosses. The 100-bed hospital designed by the acclaimed Detroit architect Albert Kahn? Plunderers destroyed it.

Given the scale of decay and decrepitude in this town — founded in 1928 by the industrialist Henry Ford in the far reaches of the Amazon River Basin — I didn't expect to come across the stately, largely well-preserved homes on Palm Avenue. But there they were, thanks to the squatters.

"This street was a looters' paradise, with thieves taking furniture, doorknobs, anything the Americans left behind," said Expedito Duarte de Brito, 71, a retired milkman who dwells in one of the homes built for Ford managers in what was planned to be a utopian plantation town. "I thought, 'Either I occupy this piece of history or it joins the other ruins of Fordlândia.'"



*A statue of a man harvesting rubber stands near Fordlândia's church. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

In more than a decade of reporting from Latin America, I made dozens of trips to the Amazon, lured back time and again by its vast rivers, magnificent skies, boomtowns, lost civilizations and tales of hubris consumed by nature. But somehow I never got to Fordlândia.

That finally changed when I boarded a riverboat this year in Santarém, an outpost at the confluence of the Amazon and Tapajós rivers, and made the six-hour trip to the place where Ford, one of the world's richest men, tried turning a colossal swath of Brazilian jungle into a Midwest fantasyland.

I explored the outpost on foot, wandering the ruins and talking to gold prospectors, farmers and descendants of plantation workers who live here. Hardly a lost city, Fordlândia is home to about 2,000 people, some who live in the crumbling structures built nearly a century ago.

Ford, the automobile manufacturer who is considered a founder of American industrial mass-production methods, hatched his plan for Fordlândia in a bid to produce his own source of the rubber needed for making tires and car parts like valves, hoses and gaskets.

In doing so, he waded into an industry shaped by imperialism and claims of botanical subterfuge. Brazil was home to *Hevea brasiliensis*, the coveted rubber tree, and the Amazon Basin had boomed





*An encroaching forest frames the decaying walls of the Fordlândia hospital. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*



*The village of Fordlândia is now home to about 2,000 people, many of whom live in the original American-built structures. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

inhabited by Brazilians hewing to what he considered American values.



*Old gravestones from the Ford era, tipped over after years of floods and erosion. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

from 1879 to 1912 as industries in North America and Europe fed the demand for rubber.

But to the dismay of Brazil's leaders, Henry Wickham, a British botanist and explorer, had spirited thousands of Hevea seeds out of Santarém, providing the genetic stock for rubber plantations in British, Dutch and French colonies in Asia.

These endeavors on the other side of the world devastated Brazil's rubber economy. But Ford despised relying on the Europeans, fearing a proposal by Winston Churchill to create a rubber cartel. So, in a move that pleased Brazilian officials, Ford acquired a giant stretch of land in the Amazon.

From the start, ineptitude and tragedy plagued the venture, meticulously documented in a book by the historian Greg Grandin that I read on the boat as it made its way up the Tapajós. Disdainful of experts who could have advised them on tropical agriculture, Ford's men planted seeds of questionable value and let leaf blight ravage the plantation.

Despite such setbacks, Ford constructed an American-style town, which he wanted

Employees moved into clapboard bungalows — designed, of course, in Michigan — some of which are still standing. Streetlamps illuminated concrete sidewalks. Portions of these footpaths persist in the town, near red fire hydrants, in the shadow of decaying dance halls and crumbling warehouses.

"It turns out Detroit isn't the only place where Ford produced ruins," said Guilherme Lisboa, 67, the owner of a small inn called the Pousada Americana.

Beyond producing rubber, Ford, an avowed teetotaler, anti-Semite and skeptic of the Jazz

Age, clearly wanted life in the jungle to be more transformative. His American managers forbade consumption of alcohol, while promoting gardening, square dancing and readings of the poetry of Emerson and Longfellow.





*Trees grow among old equipment in the abandoned workshops of Fordlândia. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

Going even further in Ford's quest for utopia, so-called sanitation squads operated across the outpost, killing stray dogs, draining puddles of water where malaria-transmitting mosquitoes could multiply and checking employees for venereal diseases.

"With a surety of purpose and incuriosity about the world that seems all too familiar, Ford deliberately rejected expert advice and set out to turn the Amazon into the Midwest of his imagination," Mr. Grandin, the historian, wrote in his account of the town.

These days, the ruins of Fordlândia stand as testament to the folly of trying to bend the jungle to the will of man.



*A resident of Fordlândia near the workshops and warehouses that were the center of Ford's community in Brazil. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

Seeking to promote the automobile as a form of recreation — along with the golf course, tennis courts, a movie theater and swimming pools — managers laid out nearly 30 miles of roads around Fordlândia. But cars are mostly absent on the town's muddy lanes, eclipsed by the motorbikes found in towns across the Amazon.

By the end of World War II, it was clear that cultivating rubber trees around Fordlândia could not be profitable in the face of leaf blight and competition from synthetic rubber and Asian plantations freed from Japanese domination.

After Ford turned the town over to Brazil's government in 1945, officials transferred Fordlândia from one public agency to another, largely for unsuccessful experiments in tropical agriculture. The town went into a seemingly perpetual state of decline.



"Nothing happens here, and that's how I like it," said Joaquim Pereira da Silva, 73, a farmer from Minas Gerais State who followed his star to Fordlândia in 1997. Now he lives on Palm Avenue in an old American house he bought for 20,000 reais (about \$6,670) from a squatter who fixed it up.

"The Americans had no idea about rubber but they knew how to build things to last," he said.

Something about the failed utopia strikes a chord with scholars and artists in other parts



*Passengers waiting for a riverboat look out on the American-built water pumping station. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

Johannsson and a 1997 novel by Eduardo Sguiglia about an Argentine adventurer who travels here to recruit plantation laborers.



*An American-built bungalow that once housed Ford executives is now inhabited by a local vegetable farmer. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

Some descendants of workers who settled in Fordlândia, along with new migrants from other parts in Brazil, have small plots where zebu cattle graze. Others plant manioc in areas where rubber trees were chopped down decades ago. Many survive on small social welfare payments or pensions.

Then there are residents like Eduardo Silva dos Santos, born 66 years ago in the hospital conceived by Kahn, the architect who designed much of 20th-century Detroit. Mr. dos Santos now lives in a small house near the hospital's ruins.

Scavenging material left by the Americans, he fashioned a fishing lantern from old car parts and a spice grinder from discarded machinery. Mr. dos Santos expressed mixed views of Fordlândia under American stewardship, growing up in the years after Ford unloaded the town.



*Original wood floors and furniture adorn the old American Club. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

"This place in Ford's day was clean, no insects, no animals, no jungle in the town," said Mr. dos Santos, one of 11 children born to a family that depended on the rubber plantation.

"My father worked for them," he said, "and he did what they ordered him to do. Workers are like dogs: They obey."

But to Ford's dismay, sometimes they didn't obey.

Managers tried enforcing the alcohol prohibition, but workers simply hopped on boats to a so-called island of innocence nearby with bars and brothels. And in 1930, workers fed up with eating Ford's diet of oatmeal, canned peaches and brown rice in a sweltering dining hall staged a full-scale riot.

They smashed time clocks, cut electricity to the plantation and chanted, "Brazil for Brazilians; kill all the Americans," forcing some of the managers to decamp into the jungle.

The Amazon offered its own challenges to the Americans. Some couldn't adapt to the conditions here, suffering nervous breakdowns. One drowned when a storm on the Tapajós River toppled his boat. Another manager left after three of his children died from tropical fevers.





*A Ford-era fire hydrant, overlooking the Tapajós river. Credit Bryan Denton for The New York Times*

Ford might have avoided such tragedies, and the ruinous management of the plantation, if he had sought counsel from specialists in caring for rubber trees or scholars of the Amazon's capacity to thwart grandiose ventures. But he seemed to abhor learning from the past.

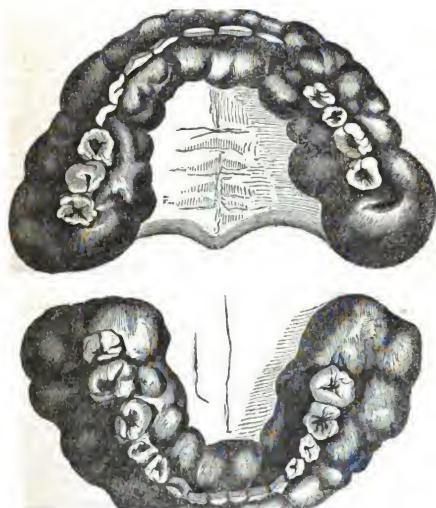
"History is bunk," Ford told The New York Times in 1921. "What difference does it make how many times the ancient Greeks flew their kites?"

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## The dentist who made the blind see - Thomas Morris

thomas-morris.uk



One interesting aspect of nineteenth-century medicine is the fact that many clinicians were convinced that every ailment could be traced ultimately to the same cause. Some were sure that most illnesses were triggered by problems with the liver; others that a disordered digestion could manifest in symptoms all over the body. Towards the end of the century, French physicians became obsessed with the nervous system, believing that everything from heart disease to metabolic disorders was in essence a 'nervous' condition.

Another example of such monomania is the dental surgeon Leonard Koecker, who was – unusually for the time – a qualified physician as well as a dentist. His influential textbook *Principles of Dental Surgery*, published in 1826, put many noses out of joint. It begins uncompromisingly:

### CASE OF LOST SIGHT RESTORED BY PROPER DENTAL TREATMENT.

*Lost sight restored by dental treatment*

*It may be assumed as a fact, that there is no branch of the healing art, so little founded on scientific principles as that of Dental Surgery.*

Koecker goes on to castigate the dentists of Germany, France, England and America for their inadequacies, adding for good measure:

*I do not hesitate in the least to assert it as my sincere opinion that Dental Surgery, in the manner in which it is practised at present, is really a great positive evil.*

It must be said that he had a point. Many of those practising as dentists at this date had little formal training or knowledge of physiology. Much of his advice was straightforward and sensible, such as his insistence that artificial teeth should only be implanted once the underlying disease had been treated. Nevertheless, he had a few idiosyncrasies – one was his belief that poor dental health was the underlying cause of a wide range of unrelated conditions. In an article published in *The Medico-chirurgical Review* in 1843 he explains how he cured one patient of gout, and restored another's hearing, by extracting their decay-riddled teeth. But perhaps the most implausible of these cases is this one:

*Mrs. S, was requested by Mr. Lawrence, in March 1840, to consult me about her teeth, giving it as his opinion that her sufferings were principally produced by the diseased condition of her mouth. The patient was 69 years of age, and although delicate and nervous, did not particularly suffer in her general health, but for the last ten or twelve years had been gradually losing her sight, so that she had for some years required a constant guide, and had now become almost totally blind.*

Dr Koecker does not attempt to explain how tooth decay might result in blindness.

*On a minute examination I found her mouth in a most diseased and disgusting condition. The gums were much swollen, of a red and livid appearance, and, together with the alveolar processes, in a state of much inflammation and suppuration.*

The alveolar process is the ridge of bone which contains the tooth sockets.

*Seven or eight dead roots and stumps were remaining in different parts of both the upper and under jaws, intermixed with 11 apparently healthy teeth, to which latter were fastened in different places four small sets of artificial teeth, of one to four teeth each, mounted on gold, and both constructed and inserted in the most injudicious and unskilful manner, so that some of the teeth, to which the sets were attached, had now become denuded of the gums and had been retained, probably for years, in their positions only by the gold fastenings of the artificial teeth. The artificial teeth had not been removed from their places for six or seven years, and had*

*become, along with the natural teeth and roots, incrusted with a mass of tartar to such an extent that it was difficult to distinguish the one from the other.*

It sounds pretty disgusting. Horsehair toothbrushes were in use at this date, but I suspect this patient did not even employ this basic measure.

*Some of the roots and teeth were still retained firmly in their sockets, but the greater part were very loose In order to obtain a precise view of the case, it was necessary first to remove all the sets of artificial teeth, which proved to be a difficult task; I was obliged to scale off in the most careful manner the greater part of the incrusting tartar before I could accomplish this. Having succeeded however in doing so, I found it unavoidably necessary to extract every remaining root and tooth, not one of them being in such a state as to render the preservation possible.*

The unpleasantness of this procedure can barely be imagined. The dentist pulled eleven healthy teeth, and then had to carve out the roots of another eight – all in an age before anaesthetics.

*After the restoration of perfect health to every part of the mouth, the lady was provided with a properly-constructed set of artificial teeth, which fulfilled every desired effect; and I am happy to state that she has gradually so far recovered her sight that she requires no guide, and her general health has ever since so much improved, that now, at the age of seventy, she enjoys better health than for the last ten years.*

Good for her. But somehow I doubt that her teeth had anything to do with it.

Posted on 23rd March 2017 Author Thomas Morris Categories Bewildering research

### One thought on “The dentist who made the blind see”

1.

**Lynzie Quinn RN** says:

25th March 2017 at 10:51 pm

Because of the close proximity of the areas that were infected to her vision centers, there could have very well been an extensive infection causing swelling and blindness. Dental infections can cause an amazing array of unusual symptoms. As a registered nurse I've seen hearing and taste loss, along with heart damage caused by oral infections.

---

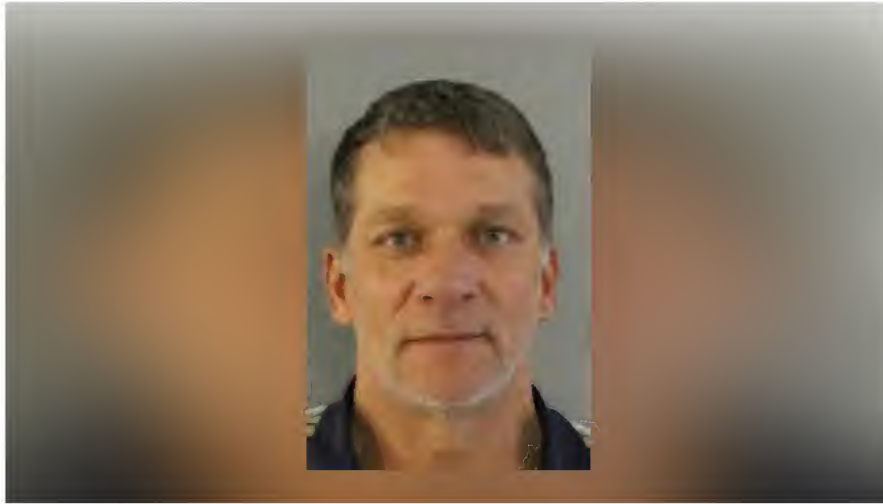
/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Deputy suspended after satanic curse allegation

mysuncoast.com

- Sun-Herald
- 18 hrs ago



- (Charlotte Co. Sheriff's Office)

Charlotte Co., Fla. (Sun-Herald) -- A corrections deputy at the Charlotte County Jail was disciplined after an inmate claimed the deputy put a satanic curse on him, according to an internal affairs investigation by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

The inmate, Todd McGathey, was out of his cell for a professional visit when Corrections Deputy First Class

Joseph Osinga rearranged cards from McGathey's solitaire game to line up as "666." Osinga also left McGathey's belongings in disarray on his bed after performing a contraband search, contrary to CCSO policies.

McGathey allegedly found a "satanic star" drawn in Sharpie on his wall after the search, although Osinga denied knowledge of the drawing.

McGathey is serving time for violation of probation, after originally pleading no contest to theft and fraud charges in 2007. According to the report, McGathey claims to be possessed by demons and regularly calls upon the jail chaplain to pray them out.

"Though the pastor prays the demons out of him, they come back regularly," the report states.

Another deputy interviewed in the investigation said McGathey has been evaluated by the jail's mental health personnel who believe this is a game he is playing.

Deputy Osinga went to get McGathey out of his cell on Dec. 13, along with Corrections Deputy First Class Mark DeHart, and the two removed at least 30 inmate requests forms from McGathey, who had been using them for personal notes.

While he was out of his cell, they searched for other contraband, since McGathey is known for making crosses and religious items out of toilet paper and other things.

DeHart began the search but got called away, and Osinga finished. He found several paper bags under McGathey's bed, which he emptied out, eventually confiscating a few religious items and some fishing string. As he was leaving, Osinga noticed a game of solitaire on the bed.

According to his statements, the inmate next door, Richard Hetherington, said it would be funny if Osinga rearranged the cards into "666." Osinga went back to do so.

"I thought it would be like a comic relief," he said.

Inmate McGathey was not amused. According to Deputy DeHart, he was very upset when he returned to his cell and said, "Officer Osinga put a curse on me and is bringing down the demons of hell. ... He's opened up this cell to Satan."

Other jail personnel removed the graffiti star from McGathey's cell after he complained. They noted that the star looked fresh and said it would be unlikely for an inmate to have possession of a marker.

However, Osinga said during the internal affairs investigation that he never saw the star. He has an idea of what a satanic star looks like but is not sure how many points there are or what sequence they are in.

Sgt. Scott Clemens, who performed the internal investigation, wrote that he asked Osinga why he would arrange the cards into "666," "knowing Inmate McGathey is religious and not into Satanism."

Osinga said it was a poor lapse in judgment.

"I'm sorry for what I did," he said. "I didn't mean to cause any psychological harm to Inmate McGathey... I had a lapse in judgment and it won't happen again."

Osinga also admitted that he should have left McGathey's cell in better condition after the contraband search and put the things he dumped out back into their bags.

The report concluded by sustaining two charges against Osinga for "Conduct Unbecoming" and violating procedures for contraband searches by not leaving McGathey's cell in reasonable order after searching it and not conducting the search in a professional manner.

Osinga was placed on a 24-hour suspension followed by six months of probation.

*The Sun-Herald is a media partner with ABC7 WWSB.*

WWSB Station Profiles & Public Inspection FilesEEO Report

All content Copyright 2017 WWSB ABC 7. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Detroit kangaroo ID'd after video goes viral

Candice Williams , The Detroit News

detroitnews.com

A kangaroo in a video clip that went viral after it was spotted hopping down a Detroit street has been identified.

The exotic animal is named Darwin, according to his handler, Javon Stacks of Exotic Zoo. He's a 2-year-old red kangaroo.

The Snapchat video posted on Twitter had drawn nearly 10,000 retweets by Tuesday afternoon. In the video, a man, apparently Stacks, is seen running down Birchcrest Drive with a 4-foot-tall kangaroo on a leash. A small crowd can be seen watching.

Stacks said he was in the neighborhood for a birthday party.

"The kangaroo is too big to be in the house," Stacks said. "The birthday kid and all their friends wanted to see him hop around. Someone was driving by and took that video."

As of Monday afternoon, Detroit Animal Control said they were investigating the kangaroo's appearance in Detroit.

"We have field teams out to drive the area, speak to citizens," said Kelly McLaughlin, spokeswoman for Detroit Animal Control.

McLaughlin said it's illegal to own an exotic animal in the city.

However, Stacks, who would only say he's based in Michigan, said his traveling zoo is licensed. During the past 10 years Stacks said he's traveled to schools, libraries and private parties with exotic birds, reptiles and mammals.

"We educate people," he said. "When people don't know, people tend to judge things."

Stacks said he stresses that exotic animals are not pets.

McLaughlin said it's not every day Detroit Animal Control receives calls about an exotic animal sighting.

"Half a dozen times a year commonly," she said. "We've had in the past alligators, snakes and mini horses. Things of that sort. Never a kangaroo. This is our first."

cwilliams@detroitnews.com

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Did He Murder His Namesake?

murderbygaslight.com



A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, January 21, 2017

### Did He Murder His Namesake?



CORNELIUS CALLAHAN,

IN JAIL AT HARTFORD, CONN., CHARGED WITH  
THE MURDER OF HIS COUSIN.

28-year-old Cornelius Callahan and his 23-year-old cousin also named Cornelius Callahan, took a train, on October 24, 1883, from Hartford, Connecticut to Meriden, Connecticut where Daniel Callahan, the brother of the elder cousin had a job opportunity for the younger. After transacting their business, the three had a few drinks before the cousins took the limited express that evening back to Hartford. When the train arrived in Hartford, only the elder Cornelius got off.

The arriving Cornelius Callahan told the family that his cousin had been standing on the platform outside of one the cars and had fallen off the train near the town of Berlin. He said he told the conductor and a porter, but was not believed. The family was also slow to believe this story, but the following day the brother of the missing man and the father of his cousin, walked the track near Berlin. They met a crew of railroad men who said they had found a body underneath a pile of crossties; it was their missing relative, almost exactly where Cornelius had said it would be.

As more information was gathered, the case grew increasingly mysterious. The young Cornelius had died from a stab wound to his side which the coroner concluded had been inflicted by a knife. Aside from some minor bruising, the had no other injuries. It appeared as if the body had been stabbed and dragged to the place it was found, but rain fell that night and would have washed away any signs on the ground to verify this. The train that the two men had allegedly taken made no stops between Hartford and Meriden so the dead man must have fallen from the train. But the body was found near a sharp curve in the track known as Kelsey's Corner, and the train took the curve at a speed of at least 50 miles per hour. The body should have sustained more injuries.

The surviving Cornelius said that they had bought some dried beef and crackers and had gone out on the platform to eat them in private. A conductor recalls seeing two men on the platform and telling them that they had better come inside. Another conductor remembers some passengers

saying that a man had told them that someone had fallen off the train, but he appeared to be crazy and they thought it was a joke. A porter remembered a man who claimed someone had fallen off the train, but the porter was reluctant to talk about it, and he was briefly considered a suspect.

It came out that the two Callahan cousins had not always been on the best of terms. Their fathers had been involved in a lawsuit over the ownership of a small piece of property, and the animosity had spilled over to their sons. There were reports of heated arguments between the two boys where, at least once, the elder had threatened to kill the younger. This, along with inconsistencies in his stories, made the surviving Cornelius Callahan the prime suspect in the murder of his cousin. He was arrested and taken to jail in Berlin.

As the *New Haven Register* reported, the case had “more theories than facts.” Coroner Bollmann of New Haven, who had gained distinction as the coroner in the murder of Jennie Cramer, believed that the death was accidental. The cousins had been eating on the platform, and when the train rounded the curve, the younger Cornelius lurched into the other. He was accidentally stabbed by the knife his cousin was using to cut the beef, then fell off the train. But the accused swore that he was in the smoking car while his cousin was standing on the platform and he did not see the fall. Another theory speculated that the fall had not killed the victim and a tramp near the tracks stabbed him and dragged the body to the crossties. Others believed that they had taken a different train and had gotten off at Berlin, where the two cousins quarreled and the elder stabbed the younger, but Daniel Callahan insisted that he had seen both men board the limited express which made no stops between Meriden and Hartford.

On October 31, 1883, the case went before the grand jury to determine if Cornelius Callahan should be charged with murder. The coroner asked for a continuance because he was not ready to proceed, but Callahan’s attorney protested saying his client was a poor man and could not afford the delay. However, he said he would agree to the continuance if the state agreed to four points: 1. That the prisoner and the deceased left Meriden together on October 23, on the limited express after buying crackers and beef, 2. That the train did not stop between Meriden and Hartford, 3. That the prisoner told the conductor and porter that his cousin was missing, 4. That the prisoner had been in Hartford all night on October 22. The prosecutor would not agree to these points but did agree to pay witness fees to the accused.

The state had wanted to charge Callahan with premeditated murder, but ultimately the grand jury decided that there was not enough evidence. He was to be tried, instead, for manslaughter. Cornelius Callahan may have pled guilty to the lesser charge as it does not appear that a trial ever took place.

### Sources:

- “The Callahan Murder,” *New Haven Register*, October 29, 1883.
- “The Callahan Murder More Theories than Facts,” *New Haven Register*, October 27, 1883.
- “Connecticut,” *Springfield Republican*, November 9, 1883.
- “Coroner Bollmann’s Theory,” *Boston Herald*, October 31, 1883.
- “Did He Kill His Namesake?” *Boston Daily Globe*, October 26, 1883.
- “Did he Murder his Namesake?” *National Police Gazette*, December 1, 1883.
- “Investigating the Murder of Cornelius Callahan,” *Boston Herald*, October 27, 1883.
- “Murder on a Train,” *The Sun*, October 26, 1883.

“Not a True Bill,” *Boston Daily Globe*, December 8, 1883.

“Undoubtedly a Murder,” *New Haven Register*, October 26, 1883.

“Was it Murder?,” *Boston Herald*, October 26, 1883.

 Posted by Robert Wilhelm

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Waiter claims Chinese restaurant served HUMAN FEET to diners

By Chris Baynes 17:08, 13 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Did restaurant serve HUMAN FEET? Waiter claims Chinese eatery gave out horrific dish and called it 'bear paws'**

**WARNING: GRAPHIC IMAGES: The restaurant in Italy was reported to authorities after the employee posted a gruesome picture on Facebook that appears to show two severed feet in a blue bowl**



A waiter has claimed he has photographic proof that the restaurant in which he works has been serving HUMAN FEET to diners.

The employee posted a gruesome picture on Facebook that appears to show two severed feet in a blue bowl.

He alleges the image shows human body parts sold to customers at a Chinese restaurant in Italy as "bear paws".

Bear paws are considered a rare and ancient delicacy in Chinese cuisine.

The unnamed waiter claimed the feet were served to a Chinese food merchant from Slovenia who ordered the dish with friends at the restaurant in Padua.



A social media user reported the picture to authorities in Italy after seeing it online.

Police and food standards officials inspected the restaurant and found no trace of bear meat.

But they did find 55 pounds of meat and frozen fish of doubtful origin, dirt and grease all over the refrigerators, on the floors and on the oven, according to reports.

Packages of frog legs and crab meat were reportedly found to be well beyond their expiry dates.

Police have consulted a forensic pathologist about the pictured feet.

They concluded they were not from a bear but investigations continue as to whether they were human.

The restaurant's legal status and whether it is still open are unclear.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Party of more than 100 people skip out on bill at Spanish restaurant

upi.com



March 3 (UPI) -- A large group of diners celebrating a baptism at a restaurant in northwestern Spain snuck out together without paying their bill.

Antonio Rodriguez, owner of El Carmen restaurant in Bembibre, said the group of 120 people paid a 900 euro (\$950 USD) deposit before the meal, but crept out of the restaurant before dessert and before settling their 2,000 euro (\$2,110) bill.

"It happened in the space of a minute,"

Rodriguez said. "It was something they'd planned."

He said the group ordered and consumed starters, a main course and 30 bottles of various alcoholic drinks before disappearing without paying.

Rodriguez detailed the incident to police, but said he had no expectation of ever receiving payment from the group.

The owners of another nearby restaurant suspected they were victims of the same group when a similar situation occurred in February.

"They had made a reservation for 100 but there was close to 200 people present," the owners of El Rincon de Pepin said. "Just after eating their desserts when I was on my way to make coffee, they all upped and left."

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## rib

By **Ashley Strickland**, CNN

🕒 Updated 11:09 AM ET, Fri February 3, 2017

**Photos:** China's dinosaur discoveries

The fossil of 195-million-year-old dinosaur *Lufengosaurus* preserved as found in the ground in Yunnan Province, China. Researchers discovered ancient collagen and protein in one of its ribs.

1 of 13

Hide C

## Story highlights

Researchers found preserved soft tissue in a 195 million-year-old dinosaur rib

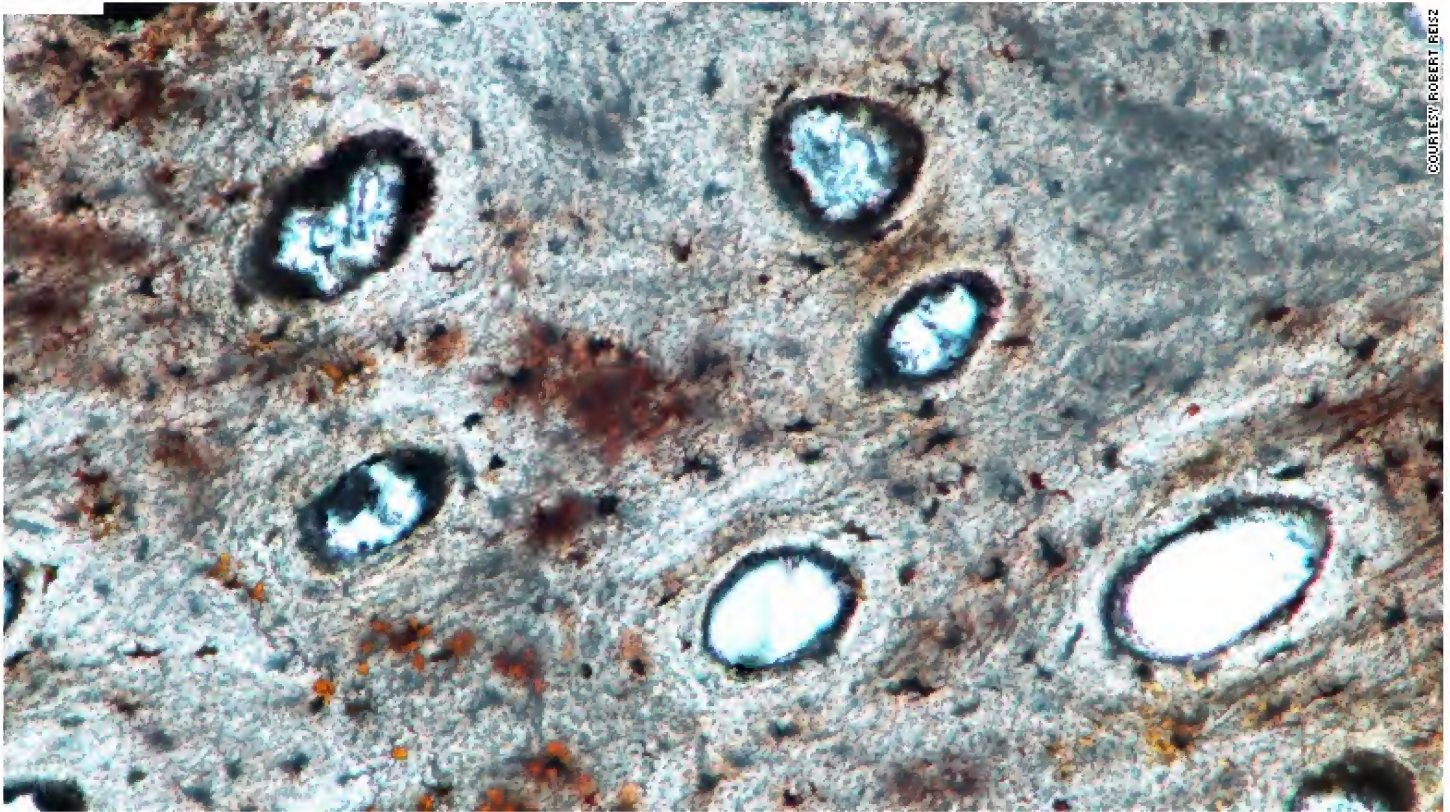
The soft tissue included collagen and protein believed to be derived from the dinosaur's blood

**(CNN)** — It might be the oldest soft tissue sample ever found. Researchers discovered ancient collagen and protein remains preserved in the ribs of a dinosaur that walked the Earth 195 million years ago.

No, this doesn't mean "Jurassic Park" is about to become a reality. But finding such well-preserved organic remains from one of the oldest dinosaurs, a *Lufengosaurus*, is unprecedented.

"This finding extends the record of preserved organic remains more than 100 million years," the researchers said in their





### A closer look at vascular canals in the rib.

Previously found collagen fragments dated back 75 million or 80 million years ago. The location of the newly discovered collagen was also surprising.

"Usually, people have looked and found collagen in the big, massive limb bones, not in the more delicate ribs," said Robert Reisz, one of the authors of the study and a paleontologist at University of Toronto Mississauga.



Collagen is one of the main protein components in connective tissues and skin. In this case, the researchers believe that the collagen and protein they found in the tiny vascular canals of the rib represent the remains of blood vessels. When the dinosaur was alive, this is where blood vessels, blood and nerves would have been housed.

Hematite samples, represented by dark red dots, were also found in the vascular canals. Hematite is a mineral that can be derived from iron-rich hemoglobin, the protein molecule in red blood cells that transports oxygen from the lungs to tissues.

**Related Article:** 'Once in a lifetime find':  
Dinosaur tail discovered trapped in amber

The hematite most likely came from hemoglobin and other iron-rich proteins in the dinosaur's blood, acting like a preservative for the collagen, the researchers said. Studying these samples can give them a better idea of the early stages of dinosaur evolution.

Health +

Live TV



dissolving away parts of the fossil, like in similar, previous studies. This also decreased the likelihood of the sample becoming contaminated with modern bacteria.

**Related Article:** Scientists find the first fossilized dinosaur brain - but what took so long?



ARTWORK BY D. MAZIERSKI

An artist's depiction of a Lufengosaurus embryo.

Lufengosaurus lived 190 million to 200 million years ago, making it one of the oldest dinosaurs from the early Jurassic period.

Characterized by a long neck and body that stretched about 26 feet, it probably spent part of its time walking on two legs. Even though it had sharp teeth and claws, Lufengosaurus was most likely a herbivore. It was a type of sauropodomorpha, a class of long-necked "lizard-footed" dinosaurs that fed on plants.

Their fossils, and even nests containing embryos, are most commonly found in Lufeng, for which they were named, in China's Yunnan Province. Some of the same researchers from this study discovered the "bonebed" of nests full of embryos, also including preserved organic remains, [in 2013](#).



Health +

Live TV

...researchers hope that their discovery will enable them to find more preserved ancient proteins and study them in a way that promotes preservation.



# H Creationist Ken Ham's Giant 'Noah's Ark' To Feature Dinosaurs vs. Giants Diorama

NEWS

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

LIFESTYLE

IMPACT

VOICES

VIDEO

ALL SECTIONS



CRIME 02/17/2017 05:06 am ET

## Creationist Ken Ham's Giant 'Noah's Ark' To Feature Dinosaurs vs. Giants Diorama

Wha???

By Ed Mazza

A new display going into the creationist [Noah's Ark](#) attraction in Kentucky shows what appears to be gladiator-style fights involving humans, giants and a dinosaur.

[Ken Ham](#), founder of the group that runs the attraction, tweeted images of the new diorama on Thursday:



The dinosaur is visible in the far right of the first image, which has a giant on the left apparently about to spear a human.

Ham, who believes in a strict literal interpretation of the Bible, claims the planet is roughly 6,000 years old, that humans existed alongside dinosaurs and that Noah even carried dinosaurs with him on the ark during a global flood roughly 4,300 years ago.

Scientists estimate that dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago, or a good 64.8 million years before the first homo sapiens, who [evolved roughly 200,000 years ago](#).

There is no scientific evidence for a race of giants.

# H Creationist Ken Ham's Giant 'Noah's Ark' To Feature Dinosaurs vs. Giants Diorama



ALSO ON HUFFPOST



13 Things The Bible Forbids (That You...



Ed Mazza 

Overnight Editor, The Huffington Post

[Suggest a correction](#)

## MORE:

Science And Technology

Religion And Spirituality

Noah's Ark

Noah

[Advertise](#) [RSS](#) [Careers](#) [FAQ](#)

[User Agreement](#) [Privacy](#) [Comment Policy](#) [About Us](#) [About Our Ads](#) [Contact Us](#) [Archive](#)

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

## Discovery of dead body forces neighboring family out of apartment

kdvr.com

THORNTON, Colo. -- A gruesome situation at an apartment complex in Thornton is forcing one family out of their home, and it they might not be able to return for weeks.

A decomposing body was found inside an apartment at the View Point Apartments near 104th Avenue. The body was discovered after a toilet flooded the unit and the water seeped into another unit.

The man's body was lying in several inches of sewage water and police say it had been there for more than a week.

Police believe the man died of natural causes.

The deceased man did have a roommate but it is not clear why he didn't report the death.

That's the part neighbors can't understand.

"Why didn't that guy tell somebody that his friend died? Like, you're living with a dead body for that long?" asked Loraé Arellano, a 16 year old who lives in the apartment across the hall.

The body was discovered Tuesday night, when waste water seeped into the Arellano's apartment across the hall.

"They said, you know, we're recommending you guys call a 24-hour crime scene cleanup crew out here to get this water out, because it's contaminated," said Maelynn Arellano.

Maelynn Arellano said she called building management late Tuesday night to inform them of the issue, but says management didn't call a cleaning crew until Wednesday afternoon.

"It's extremely contaminated, so I can't go in my apartment," Maelynn Arellano said.

When the crime scene cleanup crew arrived, she says they told her her family needed to move out for a week.

"You need to get, for you and your kids, a week's worth of stuff, medications, paperwork, whatever you need for your infant and for your other daughter and yourself for a week," she said.

The FOX31 Problem Solvers found out the Arellanos could actually be forced out of their home for a month, or even longer. A restoration crew tearing out the toxic carpet and walls found asbestos and deemed both apartments unsafe.

"I don't have anywhere else to go. This is my home," said Maelynn.

Now, the family has only what Loraé Arellano was able to grab when crews allowed her to cover her face, hands and feet and rush inside.

Management would not speak with us on Thursday about the problem or what they are doing to fix it.



The Red Cross did give the Arellanos a voucher for several nights in a hotel but the family is worried about what will happen after that.

As for the body, police say they are not looking at criminal charges for the roommate who apparently did not call 911.

The name of the man found dead has not yet been released.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Does this moose stand a chance? | Toronto Star

By Joseph Hall News reporter

thestar.com



thestar.com logo

This copy is for your personal non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies of Toronto Star content for distribution to colleagues, clients or customers, or inquire about permissions/licensing, please go to: [www.TorontoStarReprints.com](http://www.TorontoStarReprints.com)

### Does this moose stand a chance?

Beset by ticks, threatened by a parasite and vulnerable to warming, Canada's moose are under threat. How worried should we be?



A mostly hairless moose in the Tumbler Ridge area of British Columbia, a sign of winter ticks, a problem in B.C. and Ontario.

A mostly hairless moose in the Tumbler Ridge area of British Columbia, a sign of winter ticks, a problem in B.C. and Ontario. (TJ Gooliaff / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

They're not likely to join polar bears on climate change posters — just yet.

But moose — equals of the beleaguered Arctic ursine as Canadian icons — are rapidly losing ground to a warming climate, many experts fear.

"Hopefully we won't see (a poster of a) moose on the isolated patch of forest left," says Julee Boan, a program manager for Ontario Nature in Thunder Bay.

But we could. The moose could be for the forests what the polar bears ... have been for the ice caps — the sign on the front line."

In Boan's Thunder Bay area alone, moose populations have plummeted by some 60 per cent in a decade, provincial wildlife management surveys show.

Moose numbers have also declined precipitously in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, southern Quebec and eastern Minnesota, says Dennis Murray, a moose expert at Peterborough's Trent University.

And while other areas across their vast North American range have seen static or even increased moose populations, there's a worrisome trend overall, Boan says.

Across Ontario, for example, moose populations have fallen by 20 per cent in the last decade, she says.

The latest provincial estimate pegs the moose population in Ontario at around 92,300 — down from a high of 115,000 early last decade.

In an area of northwestern Minnesota one moose population has likely gone extinct, says Murray. He adds, however, that most experts believe the declines are now a largely localized phenomenon.

"The problem isn't as severe everywhere," Boan agrees. "While I don't think we need to be alarmed necessarily at this point ... we need to be very worried and we need to be focusing our energy on it," she says.

As we ratchet up any focus or energy on the moose, however, untold numbers of the forest giants are suffering horribly as their numbers fall — afflicted by maladies and habitat shifts that are all related to climate.

These include:

- Tick infestations that are literally pestering and bleeding the beasts to death.
- A neurologically debilitating parasite known as “brainworm” that’s being spread to moose from encroaching white-tailed deer populations.
- Warmer weather patters that may be disrupting a metabolism fine-tuned to frigid temperatures.
- The opening of new logging roads that allow hunters and wolves better access to the animals, the largest of all deer species.

Boan of Ontario Nature says some of the results can be “hard to watch.”

“It’s horrific, when you see a moose with 80,000 ticks or 60,000 ticks or whatever (and) no hair by the spring,” Boan says.



*A moose with a patch of ticks visible on its ear is shown in the Tumbler Ridge area of British Columbia in a handout photo. The sight of an ungainly and mostly hairless white moose trudging into a northern British Columbia town has become the most visible sign of the winter tick problem in the province.*

A moose with a patch of ticks visible on its ear is shown in the Tumbler Ridge area of British Columbia in a handout photo. The sight of an ungainly and mostly hairless white moose trudging into a northern British Columbia town has become the most visible sign of the winter tick problem in the province. (TJ Gooliaff)

That global temperatures are rising is clear to all but the most purblind deniers, says Boan, whose charitable conservation agency represents more than 30,000 members and 150 wildlife and wilderness groups across the province.

“The last three consecutive years have each been the warmest on record, so we know climate change is happening,” she says. But science suggests that “northern latitudes are going to experience those changes more significantly.”

Some of those northern reaches, of course, are where the moose roam. They live largely in a broad swath of forested

land that crosses the continent from ocean to ocean and stretches from subarctic regions down into patches of the northern United States.

Right near the centre of that boreal bloc is the Thunder Bay region, where winter temperatures typically hover between -10 C and -20 C most days, Boan says.

“This year we had 10 consecutive days above zero in January,” she says.

These types of temperature shifts can lead to explosions in tick populations, says, Maria Franke, curator of mammals at the Toronto Zoo.

“There’s been a record of ... ticks found on an individual moose of like 83,000. Can you imagine?” says Franke, adding the natural average is around 3,500.

The excessive load drains the animal’s blood.

Franke says warmer winters allow ticks to reproduce at a much more rapid rate, with fewer eggs and larvae being killed off by extreme cold snaps.



The zoo, which has three female moose in its collection, is conducting a study of tick-borne disease in the Toronto region.

Murray also says climate change is likely responsible for increased interactions between moose and white-tailed deer, which are moving further north as the winters warm.

They're carrying with them parasites and ailments to which they've become largely immune but are harmful to moose — much like Europeans brought pestilence to non-resistant indigenous populations in North and South America after Columbian contact.

"There are a number of parasites that are transmitted by white-tailed deer to moose that...don't really seem to damage (the deer) a whole lot," Murray says

"But they're potentially lethal to moose. They...can kill them and cause population decline."

These parasites include brainworm — or *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* — which can leave moose with symptoms much like those seen in cattle afflicted with Mad Cow Disease.

These symptoms can include disorientation and blindness and leave the weakened animals lolling their heads and stumbling in circles towards an almost certain death.

Other ailments that spread from deer to moose include liver fluke and winter tick, says Murray. The former is a large worm species that invades the moose's liver, turning the animal's own immune apparatus against the organ.

"The moose's immune system...walls off these parasites by trying to create these big cysts," says Murray, head of Trent's Integrative Wildlife Conservation lab. "And if you get 100 of these (worms) in the liver, you can have a liver that essentially becomes one big, massive cyst."

Winter ticks are — again — relatively benign to their deer hosts, but are pestilent to moose, causing some to scratch against trees or rocks until their hair is all but gone.

"There's a phenomenon known as ghost moose," says Murray, who uses mathematical models to project the size and locations of future moose populations and the pressures they may face.

"This is basically a moose that would be walking around with essentially no guard hairs because they'd torn them all off and it just looked like the moose was white."

Franke says warmer temperatures themselves may be noxious to moose, interfering with a metabolism that evolved to deal with colder weather.

"Moose are built for the cold, they want it cold," she says.



*Two moose look on at the side of a road near Lac la Biche, Alta. last May.*

Two moose look on at the side of a road near Lac la Biche, Alta. last May. (Jonathan Hayward)

Franke says the animals can "thermoregulate" in the summer by slipping into a cool lake or pond.

But on warm winter days — with ice still covering the waters — moose don't have that option and can suffer heat stress, she says.

Murray says scientists are studying the metabolic threats of warmer weather on moose but that there's currently no conclusive evidence that the animals cannot adapt to higher winter temperatures.

Murray also points to increased logging, again made easier by warmer temperatures, as another potential cause of moose declines.

Not only do more northerly operations further fragment moose habitat but they also supply hunters and wolves with easier access to their quarry, he says.

“So you get smaller and smaller blocks of pristine habitat, making moose more susceptible to being taken out.”

It’s been suggested that new logging roads that have allowed wolves further access into Alberta forests are leading to the extinction of several boreal caribou populations in that province, Murray says.

Earlier this month an Ontario wildlife group urged this province to ban hunters from killing young moose, the Star’s Kristin Rushowy reported.

“It doesn’t make sense – in a population of animals that is declining – that you are taking out the future breeders,” said Dave Pearce, manager of forest conservation for the Wildlands League.

Pearce also called on the province to create “moose refugee areas” and increase funding for monitoring and research.

A spokesperson for Ontario’s natural resources minister said the government has completed the second phase of its Moose Project, which included examining “the factors affecting moose, and actions that could be taken to address those factors.”

“This resulted in new moose population objectives and changes to moose hunting seasons to address concerns about fewer calves and fewer moose being observed in recent surveys,” Emily Kirk said. “These changes are necessary to help sustain and ultimately grow Ontario’s moose population.”

Kirk said the government will “continue monitoring moose populations and will evaluate the need for additional changes to ensure a healthy and sustainable moose population here in Ontario.”

Over time, of course the vast belt of boreal forest the moose inhabit will itself shrink through climate change, Boan says.

“That band is going to start getting smaller and smaller and the species that rely on that forest are going to be under an incredible amount of pressure,” she says.

And forestry science, she says, is only now beginning to understand how climate shifts will alter the forests that remain.

While Murray says a true crisis is not currently upon us, he predicts that within 70 years, large swaths of Ontario will become inhospitable to moose due to global warming.

Compared to the polar bear, however, Murray says moose have some built-in advantages that may make them more adaptable to a changing climate.

Polar bears, he says, exist in a very narrow niche that leaves them virtually no chance at existence absent the specific, icy conditions to which they’ve been adapted.

Moose, he says, are more “generalist” in interacting with the environment. So it’s likely they can withstand changes in habitat for longer periods.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Dog fighting for his life after being skinned alive by thugs

metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.uk Friday 10 Mar 2017 4:06 pm

### Warning: Graphic images.



The dog was partially skinned alive by sick torturers (Picture: CEN)

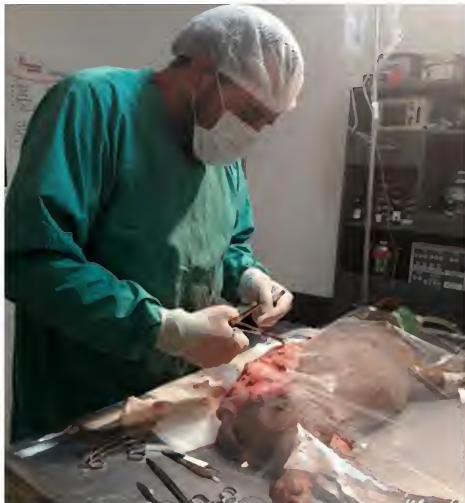
### **A dog has been left fighting for his life after being skinned alive by sick thugs in Argentina.**

Horrific images show the extreme injuries caused to the dog, who vets believe had been left for two days in agony before he was found.

His attackers sliced through his skin and began to peel it off before dumping him in Palpala, in the north-western province of Jujuy.

Animal rescue group Hogar San Roque Jujuy rescued the dog and surgeon Raul Alcoba spent hours putting the pieces of his skin back together.

The animal – named Champion by the charity for his courage – now has a thick scars running across his body.



Horrific images of the animal's injuries show how his attackers sliced through his skin (Picture: CEN)



The

dog's muscles were exposed (Picture: CEN)

Sickening pictures taken before the operation show the dog with his muscles exposed.

White House press secretary accidentally sends distress signal

Champion can now be seen on the charity's website recovering and drinking water, but medics warn he is still in a critical condition.

His abuse has outraged animal lovers.



Many criticised passersby who let the critically injured dog lie in the street for two days.



Champion can now be seen on the charity's website recovering (Picture: CEN)



He is covered in thick scars (Picture: CEN)

People are demanding a police investigation into the abuse (Picture: CEN)

Others demanded a police investigation into the abuse to catch and punish Champion's torturers.

One social media user said: 'What ignorant people without

compassion... how can they do something like this to a little animal like this.

'Only looking at him I am crying... I wish that person to be punished.'



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man claims his dog shot sleeping girlfriend

nypost.com

---

By Danika Fears

February 22, 2017 9:00pm

This pup's really in the doghouse now.

A Florida man claims his pooch accidentally shot his sleeping girlfriend in the leg on Tuesday night, according to reports.

Brian Murphy, 25, told police the dog, Diesel, had woken him up, so he let him outside.

When they returned together to the pitch-black bedroom, Diesel "jumped up on the nightstand, where his gun was sitting, and it went off," Murphy claimed, according to ActionNewsJax.

Murphy said he saw a flash and then heard a bang.

His girlfriend, Summer Miracle, awoke with a throbbing pain in her right leg. She'd been struck by a bullet but wasn't sure how, Miracle told police.

Murphy put a towel around his girlfriend's bleeding leg and called the cops just before 11:30 p.m. The woman was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

© 2017 NYP Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved

---

*Copyright 2017 NYP Holdings. All rights reserved.*

## Your dog may be manipulating you to get what it wants

2017/03/11

cbc.ca

### Think you control your dog? It turns out your pooch could be playing you

Nicole Mortillaro · Senior Writer, Science and Technology · CBC News March 11, 2017

That little pooch you shower with love and affection knows how to get what it wants.

A new study published in the journal *Animal Cognition* has found that our canine companions are able to deceive us in order to get something they desire. And they can figure out how to do it quite quickly.

Researcher and lead author of the paper Marianne Heberlein was curious about her own dogs' behaviour. Like many dog owners, Heberlein had a nighttime routine: let the dogs out to relieve themselves and then give them a treat when they came back inside.

However, one day she noticed that one of the dogs would just pretend to pee in order to get the treat. This spurred her curiosity as to what was really going on and if the dog was purposely attempting to deceive her.

In order to study the behaviour, Heberlein and her research team from the University of Zurich conducted an experiment. Using 27 dogs, the team paired each one with two human partners: a co-operative one who allowed the dogs to eat treats, and a competitive one who withheld the treats.

After the dogs learned which was which, the dogs then had the chance to lead them to one of three boxes: in one there was a sausage; in another was a less appetizing dog treat; and the last one was empty.

'It's tactical deception, basically.' - Marianne Heberlein, University of Zurich

On the first day, the dogs led the co-operative partners to the sausage box more often than expected by chance and more often than the competitive partner. On the second day that increased in both cases.

By leading the competitive partner to the incorrect box, this meant that the dog had a chance to keep the delicious sausage for itself later on, when the experiment was repeated with a co-operative partner. Hence, the apparently deceptive behaviour.

This ability, the researchers say, was learned quite quickly compared to other studies involving primates, which can take upward of a hundred trials before the animals made this association and acted accordingly.

### Tell me lies

The findings did surprise Heberlein somewhat.

"They really have the capacity from the cognitive aspect to use such a strategy to have a benefit in their lives," Heberlein said. "It's tactical deception, basically."



Daphna Buchsbaum, assistant professor at the University of Toronto's department of psychology, said that this is a good step in studying the social reasoning abilities of dogs.

Humans tend to think of themselves as unique, and cognitive abilities is one of those things that some believe sets us apart — and above — other animals. But more and more, this belief is being challenged as other species are found to be making cognitive choices.

Still, the speed at which the dogs learned was notable.

"I do think it's impressive that they got the co-operative/competition task quite quickly," Buchsbaum said. "It's promising that they're solving the problem and not just gradually learning more simple association."

However, she believes there needs to be more study in order to definitively say that the dogs are being deceptive.

"You'd want to see them being similarly flexible in similar situations," she said.

As well, since it's unclear if this cognitive ability developed out of the domestication of dogs, a study on other canines, such as wolves, would also lend itself to support the findings, something that Heberlein also acknowledged.

As for the age-old battle over which is smarter, cats or dogs, Buchsbaum laughed, saying, "I think one of the biggest differences is that the dogs care and the cats don't. The argument is: are dogs smarter than cats because they understand our communication and they do what we tell them to, or are cats smarter because they don't do what we tell them to and we feed them anyway?"

CBC

Radio-Canada

©2017 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved

Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Huge man-eating SHARK washes up on road as Australia is battered by cyclone

By Chris Kitching 07:40, 30 MAR 2017 Updated 07:56, 30 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A massive shark was discovered in the middle of a road as floodwaters receded following a devastating cyclone that battered Australia.

Emergency workers were left stunned when they found the dead bull shark in a puddle as they carried out inspections following Cyclone Debbie.

Photos of the shark went viral on social media as Queensland Fire and Emergency Services warned people to stay out of murky floodwaters because sharks or other dangers could be lurking underneath.

The huge predator was found on a road in Ayr, in north Queensland, after torrential rain and fierce winds resulting in heavy flooding.



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services posted photos of the shark on Twitter and Facebook, writing: "Think it's safe to go back in the water? Think again!"

"You never know what lurks beneath the surface during a severe storm and what

will wash up in the aftermath.

"Just ask emergency services who came across this bull shark during inspections around Ayr, where floodwaters are receding in some parts."

Bull sharks are aggressive and regarded as one of the most dangerous sharks in the world as they usually live in populated areas and are known to venture inland via rivers.



Locals in Ayr said bull sharks are common in streams in the region.

The sharks can grow to nearly 12ft in length and weigh between 200-500lbs.

Debbie has wreaked havoc in Queensland, where thousands of people were being evacuated from resort islands on the Great Barrier Reef and tens of thousands more were without electricity.



New evacuation warnings were issued ahead of more heavy rainfall just two days after Cyclone Debbie made landfall as a category four storm on Tuesday.

The storm destroyed tourist resorts, cut power, flattened canefields and forced coal mines to shut down.

Debbie was downgraded to a tropical low as it moved inland and then south-east towards Brisbane, resulting in flash floods.







/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Canyon County sheriff, coroner bring opposing views to faith-healing debate

ktvb.com



The controversy of faith healing continues to create debate in Idaho. Opponents to state laws that allow parents to choose prayer over medicine for their children say now is the time for change. But a top Canyon County official says concerns about child d

10:55 PM. MST February 26, 2017



BOISE - In Idaho, parents are allowed by law to shield their children from medical care, even when faced with potentially life-threatening illnesses or injuries, in lieu of prayer or faith-healing.

Idaho is one of six states in the U.S. where religious exemptions are allowed in the deaths of minor children, protecting parents from possible negligent homicide charges. This means if a child dies because they weren't treated with medicine, the parents are not legally held responsible.

One local religious group that eschews most forms of modern medicine is the Followers of Christ.

A former member of the church tells KTVB that because prayer is the only remedy used in the church, children are suffering and dying of preventable and curable ailments.

"My first memories were my mother lifting me up and holding me up so I could look into a coffin and look at dead people," said Linda Martin.

KTVB obtained over a dozen autopsy reports from children of Followers of Christ members that have died since the early 2000s. Causes of death in those reports included flu-like symptoms, food poisoning, pneumonia, and still births.

It's something that Martin saw first-hand.

"I watched my baby cousins die," she said. "Later on when I left the church I watched my 2-year-old nephew die, when I tried to get help with Health and Welfare they told me the parents weren't doing anything wrong."

Current church members have declined repeated requests for comment on this story over the last six months. Members of the church did, however, comment on their beliefs during a special legislative working group hearing last summer.

During that hearing, Dan Sevy, a Followers of Christ church member, said pharmaceuticals and medicine are a product from Satan. He went on to explain that pharmaceuticals are derived from the Greek word "pharmakeia," a word they say translates to witchcraft and sorcery.

Sevy says the Followers are firm in their belief that heaven waits for those who follow God's word, and believe in the power of prayer.

"The medical profession I understand, they want to help, their intentions are good, but our intentions are good," said Sevy. "Life extends beyond this earth."

The Followers of Christ has branches in several states. In Idaho, a large majority of church members live in Canyon County. They bury their deceased children at Peaceful Valley Cemetery, where two new graves have been dug in the last three months.

The deaths of children from treatable ailments stand as a symbol to some that it's time for a change.

Canyon County Sheriff Kieran Donahue says he thinks religious shield laws create a double standard.

"Some people say marijuana is their religious beliefs, but it's still against the law," said Donahue. "You got to quit worrying about, 'oh we are persecuting these people.' You aren't persecuting them, you aren't saying you have to change your religion, what we're saying is you have to put the law across the board equal for everyone, and you can't hide behind that religious shield."

Canyon County Coroner Vicki DeGeus-Morris disagrees, saying the law should be left alone. DeGeus-Morris and her office are called to every child death in the church. She says fears that the laws are being used to cover up child abuse are unfounded.

"If we saw signs of child abuse we have a duty to report, and we would do so," she said.

Still, untreated children do suffer, and like any parent, members of the followers struggle with that.

"Suffering is real, it's real all over the world, and it's real right here and it's real personal," Sevy said during the hearing. "And there is no greater suffering than one that is personal to himself, whether that be him or his children and I, as a parent, find the suffering of my children far greater than my own."

DeGeus-Morris recently made statements saying that she sees child deaths from the church, "maybe once, twice a month or maybe less."

Those numbers were alarming because of how different they were from a 2015 report from the Idaho Child Fatality Review Team. The review team's numbers showed that from 2011 through 2015, no more than five kids from the Followers of Christ had died in a single year in Idaho.

DeGeus-Morris now says she misspoke.

"I can clarify that," she told KTVB. "I think we probably see one to two, three maybe a year."

For Sheriff Donahue though, only one number matters.

"One child is too many," he said. "I don't have to wait to see if there is five or 10 or 20, I don't have to. I already know. One is too many."



Concerns have also been raised about church members altering death scenes. DeGeus-Morris admits it does happen.

"They pray over the body for several hours, they cleanse the body, they redress the body and then they call us," she said.

The practice is concerning to Donahue.

"There is a gray area, some would say it's not, I would say it is," he said. "You've altered the scene, you destroyed evidence."

The Idaho Legislature has been challenged on the issue of faith-healing since passing religious shield laws that protected parents who objected to medical treatment in the early 1970's.

Over the last decade bills have been drafted to repeal those laws by several state senators and representatives, but none of them ultimately received hearings.

At the request of Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, a working group was put together in 2016 to study the issue and make legislative recommendations. The group published a report in early February with their findings.

The seven-page report concluded that the faith-healing exemptions should remain in place:

"Finding the right balance in Idaho law between protecting children and honoring a parent's free exercise of religion is challenging," the report reads. "In spite of this challenge, we believe that religious beliefs and practices should continue to be recognized as methods of treatment in health care choices in Idaho."

DeGeus-Morris agrees with that conclusion, saying she fears things will get worse if the law ever changes.

"I think we are going to see a lot of cases that aren't reported," she said. "I think we are going to see things go underground. I don't see cooperation, because these people are going to be afraid that every time a child dies, they are going to be charged with child abuse."

Donahue argues that child death cases are already underreported, despite the protections.

"I have no doubt in my mind that we don't get all the reports of mortality," said Donahue.

Former church member Linda Martin shares that belief.

"I have seen public records on cases where children don't have birth certificates," she explained. "If a child doesn't have a birth certificate and they die, and its legal to bury them in your backyard in Canyon County, who knows how many have died."

Ultimately though, change depends on action by the Legislature. Donahue says it's on the legislators to finally do something.

"To sit back and do nothing, that is criminal," said Donahue.

Idaho lawmakers are currently considering several options to change the state's faith-healing laws, but details are being kept under wraps. Similar measures failed to receive hearings each of the last

two legislative sessions.

FCC Online Public Inspection File • EEO Public File Report

© 2017 KTVB-TV

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Drone Causes Massive Elk Stampede in Wyoming

Will Sabel Courtney View Will Sabel Courtney's Articles

thedrive.com

**The drone's operator was slapped with a \$280 fine for prompting the massive bout of elk panic.**

By Will Sabel Courtney February 24, 2017



USFWS / Tony Hough, National Elk Refuge volunteer

Here's one from the "Yup, we live in the future" files: A man operating a drone caused a herd of 1,500 elk to go on a stampede on Monday, leading the drone operator to be slapped with a \$280 fine for disturbing the giant deer.

The massive bout of elk panic occurred at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyoming, according to the Associated Press. Refuge spokesperson Lori Iverson told the AP the drone's operator, who hailed from Washington, D.C., launched his flying machine from a

highway pull-off and used it to fly over the resting herd of elk, prompting them to make a break for it.

### Drone operator reportedly felt "really bad" for causing the elk stampede

A person driving a sleigh saw the incident and contacted authorities, according to the *Jackson Hole Daily*, a local newspaper.

"He felt really bad," Iverson told the paper. "He was just unaware of the regulations."

Drones have become an increasingly common site at the National Elk Refuge in recent years, deputy refuge manager Cris Dippel said in a statement.

"There are plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities for people on the National Elk Refuge during the winter," Dippel said. "We ask people to do use caution and good wildlife ethics while viewing and photographing animals."

Fines for disturbing wildlife in the area can run as high as \$5,000.

Elk and bison gather at the refuge to eat food placed there by conservationists to help them endure the long, cold Wyoming winter. The animals often congregate in the area for up to six months during the colder part of the year.

The elk, also known as the wapiti, is one of the largest mammals to walk the face of North America today, growing to more than half a ton and standing up to five feet tall at the shoulder.

© 2017 Time Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Man Wearing 'Drunk Lives Matter' T-Shirt Arrested for DUI

yahoo.com



Inside Edition  
April 5, 2017



A Pennsylvania man wearing a "Drunk Lives Matter" shirt was arrested while cops claim he was intoxicated.

Newville police pulled over Elwood Gutshall after they say he was committing multiple traffic violations while driving and pulled

him over.

"After subsequent investigation it was determined the driver was under the influence of alcohol beyond what he could safely operate a motor vehicle," the department said in a statement.

Gutshall's blood-alcohol level was 0.217, police said.

He was charged with DUI highest rate and other traffic violations.

Gutshall was still wearing the t-shirt as he posed for his mugshot.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Drunk man who stuck two live fish into his anus is rushed to hospital

08:19 EDT, 15 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

- **A drunk man, from southern China, put two live pond loaches into his body**
- **One of them broke through his intestinal wall and swam up to upper abdomen**
- **The man stayed in ICU after doctors taking both loaches out successfully**

By Tiffany Lo For Mailonline

A drunk man in China was rushed to hospital after he put two live fish into his anus.

The two pond loaches swam up into his intestines, one of which even broke through the bowel wall causing severe abdominal pain to the patient.

Doctors in Guangzhou, southern China, successfully removed the two fish and the man remains in intensive care, reports Huanqiu, an affiliation with the People's Daily Online.

Shocking: Doctors said one of the pond loaches broke through the intestinal wall

Pond loaches are claimed to have high-value nutrients and are often seen in Chinese dishes

According to reports, the 45-year-old man claims to have been drinking on March 10 and put the fish inside his body by himself.

The following day he rushed to The First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University with signs of a high fever, low blood pressure and severe stomach pain.

As the two loaches had stayed in the patient's body for over 24 hours, surgeons did an abdominal digital radiography to locate the loaches.

The patient was diagnosed with perforation of the intestine and was at risk of septic shock due to infection.

Doctors successfully removed the loaches that one measuring six inches long.

However they could not locate the second pond loach in his intestines but identifies a wound on the intestinal wall.

The patient could have a life threatening infections if the loach had gone further up (file photo)

Doctors told the reporters that the second pond loach was stuck in the upper left section of his abdomen.

One doctor said: 'The second fish is four inches long and 0.8 inches wide. He could have lost his life if this loach swam further and reached upper organs.'

He explained the fish had caused serious infection in the patient's abdominal area and he has now been transferred to intensive care for further treatment.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Dublin 'vampire' allowed to march in St Patrick's Day parade for 49th time after being told he couldn't take part

thesun.ie

"IRELAND'S longest living vampire" will march in this year's St Patrick's Day Parade – after originally being told he couldn't take part for security reasons.

Paddy Finlay, who is known as Paddy Drac, was left disappointed when he received a letter from organisers saying he wasn't allowed to get involved.



The 72-year-old told Joe Duffy on RTÉ's Liveline: "I've been in the Dublin Parade for 48 years. I've dressed as Dracula and walked in the parade since 1969.

"I don't interfere with the floats. I've never had any trouble. I've taken photos with gardai and Mary McAleese brought me up onto the stand.

"I love it. It's been part of my life for the past 48 years. Last year when I was doing it I wasn't well and my son rang me and said 'Paddy don't do it this year' and I said

'Graham, if I die at the parade I'll be happy'."

He added: "It was like a stake in the heart this morning when I got this. I was always in the parade when I was a child.

"What threat would I be to anybody? I'm afraid of my own shadow. It's part of my life, I don't ask for any fees."

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## New Hampshire kindergarteners host duck wedding

upi.com



A pair of ducks were married in a ceremony at a New Hampshire Elementary school. Students at Weston Elementary School in Manchester quacked along to "Here Comes the Bride" as the two ducks, who were born at the school were wed. Screen capture/WMUR/AOL

Feb. 24 (UPI) -- A group of kindergarteners in New Hampshire gathered together to hold a wedding for a pair of ducks.

The two ducks, Plumpty and Pierre, were hatched in a kindergarten classroom at Weston Elementary School in Manchester two years ago and returned to visit the school several times before the students decided to celebrate their matrimony.

Principal Liz MacDonald officiated the ceremony as students stood in a line and hummed to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride" as the ducks walked down the aisle dressed in a miniature tuxedo and wedding dress.

"Today we are gathered to marry Plumpty and Pierre, who have been in love since they hatched," MacDonald said to begin the ceremony, according to ABC News. "Do you promise to share a nest, and mealworms and do you promise to keep other warm in good times and in bad times?"

The students were heavily involved in the ceremony, including writing the couple's vows, as they helped brainstorm the details for the ceremony.

"They wrote the invitations, they wrote to-do lists, they wrote the brainstorming of what was needed," teacher Marguerite Hopey said.

A reception was held after the ceremony as students celebrated the newlyweds by performing "The Chicken Dance."

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Dutch man told to remove 80 goldfish from canal - BBC News

bbc.com

A man who released dozens of goldfish into a Dutch canal has been told he has to scoop them out again.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) has given Hans van Manen one month to pluck the creatures from the waterway in the central town of Veenendaal, De Gelderlander news website reports. The fish have been swimming around in the canal since June, when Mr Van Manen decided to release them to create a local attraction with the support of nearby businesses.

In total, 280 fish were released - a mixture of goldfish and another similarly orange species, golden orfe. The RVO order only applies to the goldfish, of which there are 80, according to De Gelderlander.

The RVO stepped in after a complaint from a conservation group which works to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. Officials say the release breached the law protecting native flora and fauna, as goldfish eggs could leave the canal through a drainage system that's connected to other waterways. There was also a concern that it could lead to interbreeding with native crucian carp.

If Mr Van Manen doesn't act then agency officials will catch the fish and bill him for the trouble, but he tells RTL News that although it's a "real shame", he will abide by the decision. "As experts say it's bad for the other animals in the area, I respect that," he tells the site. "I did this out of love for animals."

He's hoping to sell the goldfish - which he says have grown well in the canal - and use the cash to buy more golden orfe to replace them.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman arrested for blasting Ed Sheeran song repeatedly

upi.com

Ed Sheeran performs on the NBC Today Show at Rockefeller Center in New York City on March 8, 2017. An Englishwoman was issued an 8-week jail sentence after repeatedly playing Sheeran's song "Shape of You" at a high volume. Photo by John Angelillo/UPI

March 28 (UPI) -- A woman in England was arrested after playing an Ed Sheeran song on repeat at high volume.

A judge determined that Sonia Bryce of Willenhall caused a "wholly unacceptable level of disturbance" by repeatedly playing the song "Shape of You."

The judge issued her an 8-week jail sentence after neighbors complained she played the song on a loop for half an hour.

"You must learn that you should behave as a reasonable and responsible adult and not make life for your neighbors the misery that you have," the judge said.

Prior to the incident Bryce's landlords at Walsall Housing Group Ltd. had secured an order barring her from creating a nuisance or annoyance.

She was previously given a 6-week sentence in December after repeatedly breaching the injunction.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Shadowy figures filmed at grade-II listed building where monks were burnt alive

By Alexander Ritchie 06:49, 6 APR 2017 Updated 07:11, 6 APR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**The team were investigating the renowned paranormal hotspot 'The Village' in Mansfield, Notts, when their camera caught an eerie figure watching them**



Ghost hunters have revealed footage and pictures of a shadowy figure stalking them in a grade-II listed building – where seven monks were thought to have been burnt alive.

Dan Litchfield, 36, and his team were investigating the renowned paranormal hotspot 'The Village' in Mansfield, Notts, when their camera caught an eerie figure watching them in the darkness.

What left the group even more stunned was when another photo in a different part of the former pub and slaughterhouse showed the suspected ghoul again watching them.

Legend has it that tunnels led from the nearby Newstead Abbey to the site and monks who had sought refuge were slaughtered when there caught during the Dissolution of the Monasteries.



Dan, from Gloucester, said:

“Catching a full apparition on camera is like the Holy Grail in paranormal investigations. That sort of thing doesn't happen very often.

“You normally see some things that can be attributed to pareidolia - when you see a shape or a figure when nothing's actually there. But the shadow figure was unbelievably clear.

“It was our first time there. It is known as a major hotspot in the field and well known as one of the best places to visit so we had wanted to go – it had been on my bucket list for a while.

“I never thought we would get something as good as this. I hoped to but never thought I would.

“We also had a photo that was taken by another person in the building that night. He actually found a similar shadowy figure within a different part of that area.

"The fact that the figure was caught twice in two different spots, 10 feet apart, that obviously reinforces the sighting."



Built in 1802, The Village has served as a slaughter house, a malt house and even a nightclub, but is said to have been based on a site that once contained an old barn.

Under that barn was reportedly a tunnel which led to Newstead Abbey, located a few miles south of Mansfield.

Legend has it that this tunnel was used by the resident monks of the abbey to escape the English authorities during the Dissolution of the Monasteries period of the late 1530s.

The monks fled through the tunnels and sought refuge in the barn. Upon finding them, the authorities burned down the barn with the group still inside, killing all of them.



Dan, who founded the UK Ghost Hunters collective in 2012, said: "With all that activity that we caught that night, it all shows the evidence in the place is amazing. We hope to go back later in the year.

"I hadn't heard the story of the monks before we went. I don't like to do too much reading on a place before we go and instead go with a blank slate. I don't want to be going looking for something in particular

as that is how you end up coming away frustrated or read into things you see."

Last year, full-time ghost hunter Lee Roberts, 39, caught on camera what he thought might be the monks returning after being awoken during a ghost hunting vigil in the form of a swirling mist – indoors.

The group held hands and called out for spirits to show themselves, but did not realise that anything had happened until Lee showed them CCTV of a swirling mist that appeared only moments later.

The dad-of-four claims he has done ghost hunts at the site for two years and never seen the mist appear until after the vigil and it has not reappeared since.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Elderly couple on wrong flight; end up in NY, not Michigan

yahoo.com

**AP** FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A 96-year-old woman and an 89-year-old man were wheeled to the wrong gate at a South Florida airport and ended up on a flight to upstate New York instead of Michigan.

Helen Wheeker and her husband, George Nobel, ended up Ogdensburg, New York instead of Grand Rapids, Michigan after being put on the wrong Allegiant Air flight on Wednesday at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

South Florida television station WPLG (<http://bit.ly/2n2lKe8> ) reports that Allegiant Air spokeswoman Hilarie Grey blamed a malfunctioning boarding-pass scanner for not catching the mix-up.

Grey apologized for the mistake and says the couple has been given a full refund.

The couple flew back to Fort Lauderdale and planned to try again to fly to Michigan on Saturday.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Elton John tribute act who stabbed parents jailed for 5 years

15:22 EST, 27 February 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

**Elton John tribute act who stabbed his parents when they refused to sell the family home after he got into debt is jailed for five years**

- **Mark Ruck attacked his parents when they refused to sell up and give him money**
- **43-year-old repeatedly stabbed 70-year-old mother and father, 72, in the head**
- **Elton John tribute act was cleared of attempted murder and jailed for five years**

By Amie Gordon For Mailonline



Mark Ruck, 43, was jailed for five years

An Elton John tribute act has been jailed for five years after he stabbed his parents when they refused to sell their home to pay his debts.

A court heard Mark Ruck slashed his mother Bedelia, 70, in the arm with a lock knife after losing his temper on September 6 last year.

The debt-ridden 43-year-old then repeatedly stabbed his father Michael, 72, in the head after threatening to 'burn down' the family home in Redhill, Hereford.

Last week Ruck - who has appeared on television performing as Elton John - went on trial at Worcester Crown Court.

He admitted wounding his father with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding his mother but denied attempted murder.

Today he was cleared of attempting to murder his father after a jury returned a not guilty verdict.

Jailing Ruck for five years for the attack, Judge Robert Juckes QC said the physical harm he had caused was 'slight' but this was only by a miracle.



The 43-year-old has appeared on television performing as Elton John (pictured)

He said: 'The gulf that appears to exist between the man you have been most of your life and the man you became is extremely hard to explain.

'It may be that your use of alcohol in the years and months leading up to what took place had got out of your control without you realising it.

'His [Ruck's] desire to better himself may have led to a state of mind that was completely removed from reality.'

He said the defendant's reaction to his parents not wanting to sell the home where they had lived for 40 years was 'inexplicable'.

He added: 'It was only a matter of good fortune that the three stab wounds went no further than the skin...but there has also been psychological injuries caused.'

The court heard Ruck had bought the former council home with his parents but had taken out a second mortgage without his father's knowledge.

Ruck wanted to sell the family home to raise money to take a paramedics course and settle his debts which amounted to some £23,000.

Robert Price, prosecuting, said Ruck had called his crying mother 'pathetic' when she said she did not want to sell the house.

He also threatened to burn it down with them inside it and said 'I will kill both of you'.



Ruck wanted to sell the family home in Hereford to raise money to take a paramedics course and settle his debts which amounted to some £23,000

Shortly afterwards her son appeared in her room with a lock knife he had acquired while serving in the army.

As Mrs Ruck went to warn her husband, Ruck stabbed her while she was on the stairs, leaving her with a cut on her arm.

From there he went to the shed and confronted his father, stabbing him three times, to his forehead and just above the ear.

His father took down a machete from the wall before a neighbour arrived and managed to calm the situation down.

The court heard Mr Ruck wanted a restraining order to stop his son having contact with him but Mrs Ruck did not want an order preventing contact with her son.

Mark Thompson, defending, said his client had acknowledged the physical and psychological harm his father had suffered.

He added: 'He was shocked when he saw his father in court. That shock and remorse has been present since these proceedings began.'

'There is going to be financial hardship for his mum and dad. It won't be catastrophic in my submission but it will be felt. It was a moment of utter madness.'

'He has never been violent before. This came out of the blue for everyone. This is a man who acted entirely out of character for a matter of seconds.'

## Comments 29



Kirkcaldyboy., North Island., New Zealand, 44 minutes ago

Stupid boy.

Yolomcswaggins, over the rainbow, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

Yet another lenient sentence when alcohol is involved, If the guy had been a stoner he'd have been locked up for at least 15 years. At least we all know what to say in court if we ever find ourselves there "I'm an alcoholic it was the alcohol that made me do it" F the justice system

UseYourCommonSense, London, United Kingdom, 35 minutes ago

You reckon?

DiasporaninUK, Hampshire, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

Then people who say they don't want children are termed as selfish...

Penn1969, Nottingham, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

He will serve half. Appalling sentence.

Daily Female, The Greatest Place on Earth, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

This is what happens when you over-indulge your children as they grow up. All those parents who are paying deposits on houses for children, buying expensive cars, paying for their children to holiday their way around the world and not doing a stroke of work. Then suddenly they realise that the world owes them nothing and only mom and dad can get them out of the financial crisis they've backed themselves into a corner with. TOUGH LOVE is the only way that these out grown children are going to learn. You HAVE to lock up the bank of Mom and Dad and say "no more. All gone." They have to learn how to cope, just like we did. We all had to learn to stand on our own two feet. The world owes us nothing. It was here first.

EthicalVeganLiberal, Shoreditch, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Sick man

Ilovefatherted, Liverpool, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Eh? Cleared of attempted murder? How??? HOW??

Chriso showboat, Stratford-upon-Avon, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Soft britain.....we must be the laughing stock off the world

Bluecharm, Northampton, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

43 year old brat who couldn't get his own way!

paully, london, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Hope this loser, get`s left nothing, in his parents will.



---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Father's entire body covered in tumours that frighten children away metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Friday 17 Feb 2017 6:01 am



Shadot Hossain Pramanik at home in Karchadai Village, Bangladesh (Picture: Barcroft)

A father suffering with a genetic condition has 'bubble-like' tumours covering his entire body.

Believed to be suffering from Neurofibromatosis, Shadot Hossain is in a race against time to secure surgery to remove the tumours – and save his sight.

Without an operation to slice away at the overgrown tumours on his face 47-year-old Shadot could permanently lose his vision.

Covering the entire length of his body, the tumours are so severe Shadot cannot wear clothing on his top half and struggles to feed himself.



(Picture: Barcroft)

The father-of-three who lives in Shajadpur, North Bangladesh, said: 'It is very difficult to live with pain like this. I also suffer a lot with itching on the body and the neck. My body feels heavy.'

The discomfort Shadot lives with on a daily basis makes eating certain foods difficult because they require more chewing.

He said: 'If I eat chapattis, my neck hurts so I eat rice.'

And his extreme appearance means even Shadot's own 12-year-old-son Abdullah Hossain shies away from looking at his father. The stares and comments from passers-by hurt Shadot as much as the physical pain he endures.



(Picture: Barcroft)

Shadot said: 'The moment anyone sees me they try to move away from me. The kids when they see me they just freak out and start running. They're afraid of me.'

'I cannot go outside because children are afraid of me. They call me 'Monster.' I wasn't always in this condition. I was handsome in my young age.'

'Nowadays Abdullah doesn't talk to me. I understand why he feels like that. I can't do anything for my son or family.

'I feel very bad, at night I don't sleep because I feel afraid.'



(Picture: Barcroft)

Shadot used to work as a labourer but as his condition worsened he failed to do simple everyday tasks and had to quit his job. Without a regular income he cannot afford medicine or further treatment.

He said: 'I don't work anymore and I don't take any kind of medicine.'

Shadot's wife Tajmohel Khatun, 39, has seen first hand the impact her husband's deteriorating condition – and lack of finances

– has had on the family.

Tajmohel said: 'He is not able to do anything alone now. We even need to help change his clothes and help with using the toilet.



(Picture: Barcroft)

'Villagers provide us with clothes to wear as I am not able to earn a living.

'My husband is ill and I have to accept this fact. I have gotten my two daughters married but because of our financial crisis I cannot send my son to school.'

Tajmohel met Shadot when she was 19-years-old and Shadot was 27. Although Shadot had already started developing tumours on his body he was still able to lead a

normal life.

Giving birth to the couple's first child, a daughter, five years later, the couple went on to have another girl. Both daughters have since married and left the family home.

(Picture: Barcroft)

Tajmohel said: 'When I married Shadot he was suffering with this disease but he was fine but his condition is so much worse now; slowly the tumours have grown.'

Shadot first noticed a tumour growing on his forehead when he was just 13-years-old but it's only in the last five years that his condition has become so acute.





He said: 'In the last five years the tumours covered my whole body; my eyes have been closed by them and I can't see properly.'

Without medical intervention, doctors say Shadot is at risk of permanently going blind. Dr Mahmudul Hassan says he has never seen a patient with such extreme tumours.

(Picture: Barcroft)

He said: 'I haven't seen any case like this before. Patient Shadat's condition is very serious. We need to cut the layers from his eyes for the lack of visibility that he is suffering. If not cured he can lose his visibility.'



Without the money to fund the treatment themselves the family are relying on charity instead. Local social worker Mohammed Mamun Biswas has been campaigning and collecting money on Shodat's behalf.

He said: 'I ask the government to provide proper treatment to Shadot so he can get back to a normal life and support his family and help his boy to study.'

(Picture: Barcroft)

And thanks to Mohammed's efforts Shadot will go to the National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital in Dhaka for a full diagnosis and potential treatment.

Tajmohel said: 'I pray to God to cure my husband so I don't have to live the rest of my life as a widow.'

'There is no peace in our lives.'



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Moscow petting zoo sues ad company over 'erotic' raccoon shoot

upi.com



A Moscow petting zoo is suing a Russian ad agency after they rented a raccoon that was used in a nude photo shoot. The zoo said the animal became obsessed with women's breasts after he was returned. Photo by SA via Wikimedia Commons

March 16 (UPI) -- A Moscow petting zoo is suing the advertising company that rented a raccoon, saying it was used in an "erotic" shoot with a nude model and now the raccoon is obsessed with women's breasts.

According to legal filings, the zoo rented the raccoon, Thomas, to the video firm Art-Msk in August for what was supposed to be a "normal" photo shoot. When Thomas was returned, the zoo owners said he was traumatized and had become preoccupied with women's breasts. When zoo owners saw the ad footage online, they realized Thomas had been used as a prop by a female model, who held him up to obscure her naked torso.

Zoo official Viktor Kiryukhin accused the directors of giving Thomas treats to lure him closer to the model's breasts, thereby training him to conflate women's breasts with food. He said Thomas' behavior since being returned has unnerved female zoo employees.

Zoo officials demanded the images be removed from the Internet, and filed suit after Art-Msk refused.

The video company called the accusations "absurd," saying the video was not "erotic" and was intended to be broadcast on Russian television, where pornography is prohibited. The studio, which has threatened a counter-suit, said they were told they would be rented a trained animal, but were instead given Thomas, a young raccoon with no training who kept running off the set.

The studio also implied his preoccupation with the female anatomy existed before they rented him, saying he made off with a bra and damaged the garment.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Diver finds first-ever European cave fish



AFP April 3, 2017



The cave loach was first spotted in the dark, frigid underground caverns at the junction of the Danube River and Aachtopf springs in southern Germany (AFP Photo/Jasminca BEHRMANN-GODEL)

Miami (AFP) - A diver spotted an unusual pink fish swimming in an underwater grotto in Germany, and researchers now say it is the first known cave fish ever discovered in Europe.

The fish, known as a loach in the genus *Barbatula*, was found in the dark, remote, frigid underground caverns at the junction of the Danube River and Aachtopf springs in southern Germany, said the study in *Current Biology*.

Until now, more than 150 types of cave fish -- which typically have little pigment and no or very small eyes -- were known to reside on all continents except Antarctica and Europe.

Diver Joachim Kreiselmaier first spotted the strange-looking fish in August 2015, while exploring the deepest parts of the Danube-Aach system, said the study.

"No more than 30 divers have ever reached the place where the fish have been found," said Kreiselmaier.

"Due to the usually bad visibility, strong current, cold temperature, and a labyrinth at the entrance, most divers do not come back again for diving."

He took some photos, showed them to cave fish experts, and went back. He caught some live loaches and brought them back for study.

Researchers compared the loaches' physical and genetic characteristics to fish that swim near the surface by the cave and confirmed "that the cave loaches are indeed an isolated population and the first known European cave fish," said the report.

Since they live in darkness, the loaches' have smaller eyes that appear to be curved inwards, and their color is drastically faded compared to other fish.

Other adaptations by the cave fish include long, whisker-like barbels on their heads and larger nostrils.

Researchers say the European cave loaches likely arose in the last 20,000 years.

"It was only when the glaciers retreated that the system first became a suitable habitat for fish," said Arne Nolte from the University of Oldenburg and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



# Exorcists burn 'possessed' woman to death in Nicaragua

02:42 EST, 1 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

Exorcists tie up naked woman and burn her to death on a bonfire after accusing her of being possessed by a demon in Nicaragua

• Vilma Trujillo was tied up and dumped on a flaming pyre as part of an exorcism

- She was found in the northeastern village of El Cortezal with horrific burns
- The 25-year-old, accused of being possessed by a demon, died a week later

By Julian Robinson for MailOnline and Afp

A young woman has died in Nicaragua after being stripped naked, tied up and thrown on a flaming pyre as part of a deadly exorcism ritual.

Vilma Trujillo, 25, succumbed in hospital to the horrific burns inflicted on her a week ago by neighbours in the northeastern village of El Cortezal who believed she was possessed by a demon.

Nicaragua's first lady and vice president, Rosario Murillo, described the crime as 'deplorable and to be condemned.'



Vilma Trujillo died a week after being stripped naked, tied up and burnt on a flaming pyre in Nicaraguan as part of an exorcism. She is pictured being rushed to hospital after being discovered with horrific burns



Trujillo's husband, Reynaldo Peralta told La Prensa that 'my wife was not possessed' and accused the attackers of practising witchcraft. He said he was away from

home when his wife (right) was burned

According to information given by family and feminist groups to Nicaraguan media, Trujillo was grabbed by a man named Juan Rocha passing himself off as a pastor in an evangelical group called the Church of the Assembly of God.

Rocha and other people tied up Trujillo and threw her naked onto a heap of flaming logs. Relatives rescued her hours later, her body severely burned.

Rocha, arrested by police, insisted the woman was 'possessed,' but he denied burning her.

He claimed she had been held aloft by the supposed demonic spirit that then fell into the flames.



Her husband Reynaldo Peralta Rodriguez is pictured leaving the morgue with her coffin

The head of the Church of the Assembly of God, Rafael Arista, denied in a television interview that Rocha was part of his congregation or that his group had anything to do with the crime.

Pictures on local news website La Prensa showed police in a truck with some of the people said to have been accused of being involved.

Separate images, posted on the website Hoy showed Trujillo being taken to hospital

Trujillo's husband, Reynaldo Peralta, told La Prensa that 'my wife was not possessed' and accused the attackers of practising witchcraft. He said he was away from home when she was burned.

Murillo vowed that those responsible would be prosecuted for murder.

'Something like this cannot happen again,' she said.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Exotic African hybrid cat roaming New Jersey streets caught

yahoo.com

**AP** PATERSON, N.J. (AP) — Authorities in New Jersey say they captured a large exotic cat that was wandering Paterson streets.

Officials say residents called Animal Control to report the cat Thursday morning. Animal Control says officers arrived and were forced to tranquilize the animal because it was out of control. The cat was later identified as a Savannah cat.

The felines are a hybrid that is bred by crossing a domestic cat with an African serval. Experts say the exotic pets are difficult to breed and can cost more than \$20,000. The cats can weigh up to 30 pounds and leap up to 7 feet.

Wildlife Freedom, a sanctuary for orphaned and injured wildlife, was called to take the cat into custody. Officials say the animal will be cared for until its owner comes forward.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Facing Gators and Detours, First of New York's New Ferries Voyages North

nytimes.com



The ferryboat known as Hull 200 is the first member of the fleet built as part of Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan for a citywide ferry service.

Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times

ON THE OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY, Fla. — The captain and crew of the New York City-bound ferryboat known simply as Hull 200 spotted their first big alligator just before noon on Friday. And, eagerly anticipated as it was, it turned out to be a bad omen.

Their delight at seeing the reptilian menace slide into the canal they were navigating had barely subsided when the boat jerked to a stop. Three and a half days into its maiden voyage, Hull 200 was stuck in the Central Florida mud with no help in sight.

Boats get trapped in muck all the time, of course. But this sudden halt interrupted a

crucial test for Mayor Bill de Blasio's ambitious plan to start a citywide ferry service this summer.

Hull 200 — which will eventually be renamed — was the first completed piece of a fleet under construction at shipyards in Alabama and Louisiana. So it served as the bell cow on the journey north from the Gulf Coast.

For the most part, the trip involves hugging the Eastern Seaboard for more than 1,000 miles in a ferryboat designed to zip between landings in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. But the first obstacle is the Florida Peninsula, which adds a few days and hundreds of miles to the schedule.



Albert DeMange, left, will captain one of the ferries in the new fleet. James Caspers, right, is the acting captain of the Hull 200 on the trip to New York. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times

"It's a long journey in a small boat," said James Caspers, a veteran mariner who is the acting captain of Hull 200. "It's like Kon-Tiki," he said, referring to the famed voyage of the Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl.

Hornblower Cruises and Events, the company that the city chose to operate the ferry service, decided to try to save time and avoid trouble by cutting across Florida instead of going around it, where any rough waters or high winds might prove more of a challenge for the relatively light vessels. For about five hours on Friday, that seemed like a wise choice.

After three days in the Gulf of Mexico, the boat, an 85-foot catamaran, pulled away from a dock at the Fort Myers Yacht Basin on the west coast of Florida in the predawn darkness and headed east through the Caloosahatchee River. Along

with Mr. Caspers, it carried seven men who had come aboard in Bayou La Batre, Ala., the home of Horizon Shipbuilding. Only one of them, Clip Hopkins, had ever taken this obscure shortcut.

In his regular job, Mr. Hopkins, 52, captains a small ferry that carries cars and trucks to and from Gee's Bend on the Alabama River. He said he was "just tickled" to be bound for New York for the first time in his life.

"I like my job," Mr. Hopkins said. "But sometimes it's like 'Groundhog Day.' It gets kind of monotonous."



*Approaching the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam in Alva, Fla. After passing through three locks on the Okeechobee Waterway, the ferry became stuck in the mud. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times*

He did not seem to mind that he was bunking each night with the other men in the passenger compartment of a commuter ferry, eating food stored in an ice chest and sleeping on an inflatable mattress.

The concession stand in the rear of the compartment was stocked with cereal, fruit, granola bars, and microwaveable macaroni and cheese. The microwave and a coffee maker were strapped to a table with bungee cords. Despite the makeshift quarters and the lack of a shower, the only hardship any of the men cited was having to share one balky toilet.

None of the crew had ever made this crossing. But Mr. Caspers and Hornblower executives had studied charts and determined that the shallow canals were deep enough for the ferry, whose hulls protrude less than six feet below the surface. Bill Buckley, Hornblower's director of marine operations, said he had crossed Florida in a similar ferry without incident.

So Mr. Caspers and his ad hoc crew plowed eastward for a daylong leg of the journey that would require passing through five locks and under several drawbridges. Among the men onboard were four who had recently been hired by Hornblower to be captains of the Citywide Ferry fleet. The others were an Indian-born engineer employed by Hornblower and a Cuban-born representative of the company that consulted with Hornblower on its choice of French engines for the ferries.

Hornblower has been hiring captains, deckhands and mechanics in New York in anticipation of starting up the first three new routes of the ferry service sometime this summer. Cameron Clark, a senior vice president of Hornblower, said the ferry service hired 27 deckhands last week, bringing its work force to about 90.

Mr. Clark said three of the newly hired captains aboard Hull 200 would help bring other ferries north when they were ready. After the boats are built, they are put through sea trials, which involve loading the vessels with bags of sand to simulate carrying a full complement of passengers, Mr. Clark said.

City officials are still deciding what to name the boats, but Mr. Clark said the city's Department of Education had invited second graders to submit ideas. One of their suggestions: Friendship Express.





*After the crew maneuvered the ferry out of the muck, they opted for an alternate route out of Florida: the long way around. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times*

But the first order of business was getting Hull 200 to New York Harbor.

As crew members waited near sunrise for the first drawbridge they encountered to open, they anticipated a slow-moving day whose highlights would involve seeing alligators and possibly a manatee. But for the first few hours on the water, the only notable animal sightings were of cattle grazing along the banks of the Caloosahatchee. Mr. Caspers, a jovial amateur singer and actor, occasionally belted out a bit of “Ol’ Man River” or some other show tune. He urged one of the young captains, Ryan Messina, to break out his trumpet.

By midmorning, the river had connected to what is essentially a canal running along the northern edge of the Everglades. Known as the Okeechobee Waterway, most of it is man-made to help control flooding.

After the boat passed through the third of five locks on the waterway, Mr. Caspers swung it around to head toward Clewiston in the rim canal that skirts the south shore of Lake Okeechobee.



*Traveling the Caloosahatchee River. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times*

Mr. Hopkins announced the first gator sighting — a small one in the water with only its snout above the surface. Crew members hurried to the port side of the decks to get a glimpse. James Arnpriester, a bearded young captain, declared: “That’s it for me. That’s all I wanted to see on this trip.”

But a few minutes later, they spotted a much larger gator slinking off the left bank as the ferry’s low wake approached. Almost immediately, the ferry ceased gliding through the canal. The pontoon on the right — or starboard — side of its hull had sliced into a mound of mud on the bottom that pulled the

boat toward the right bank.

The captain cut the engines. The electronic instruments indicated that the water should have been deep enough to pass through, but the boat was clearly stuck. The mood onboard shifted from calm to perturbed.

Maneuvering out of the muck could have been easy, but Mr. Caspers was concerned about doing any damage to the hull or propellers of a brand new boat that cost close to \$4 million. He called a towing company but learned that it could offer no help anytime soon. Then he called all hands to the top deck to explain that they might be spending the night right there, several feet from shore in a canal that they knew contained at least two gators.



The captain listed the options: Wait for a tow; try to lighten the ferry by dumping a tank of 200 gallons of potable water and hope to float off; or start up the engine on the port side, which was still floating, and use it to turn the boat clockwise until it was safe to start the starboard engine.



*After changing course, the crew stopped for the night in the small town of Moore Haven. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times*

As long as there were no rocks down there, everyone agreed, the third option should work. And it did. After two hours there, Hull 200 was back in motion, but headed west.

Mr. Caspers said he decided that the narrow canal was not suited to the ferry, which had its propellers set several feet from its center.

Getting past Florida was going to involve going the long way around, after all: south of Key West, through the Straits of Florida and past Miami. But it was too late to make it back through all of the locks, which close at 5 p.m.

So after passing through one, Mr. Caspers parked the ferry for the night at a public dock across the street from City Hall in Moore Haven, a small town with few accommodations.

Janet Metzler, who lives nearby, was cooking steaks and corn on a grill by the dock as a pregame meal for her 15-year-old son, Patrick, and his high school baseball teammates.



*Janet Metzler was grilling dinner near where the ferry docked for the night. "You stopped in the wrong place," she said of Moore Haven, which has few accommodations. Credit Scott McIntyre for The New York Times*

"You stopped in the wrong place," Mrs. Metzler said as she served the boys; her husband, Paul; and her daughters, Kristal and Daniella. "There's no restaurants. The Burger King closed. There's no cabs, no hotels."

But the crew members were invited to the Fraternal Order of Eagles club a short walk away, where, they said, they were treated to a steak dinner.

On Saturday morning, the crew members stowed their air mattresses and got Hull 200 on its way, retracing its path from Fort Myers.

"We tried," Mr. Caspers said. "It cost us a day or two and a little excitement." He said he was

glad they were stuck only briefly because he "never wanted to be a famous captain."

After inspecting the boat in Fort Myers and deciding that the seas around Key West had calmed enough for safe passage, Mr. Caspers and his crew headed back into the Gulf on Sunday. He said the rerouted voyage could take one to two weeks, depending on the weather.

Mr. Clark, of Hornblower, said he accepted the captain's decision but would wait to decide whether all of the ferries would have to follow that course. Doing so would tack two or three days on to the trip to New York for the other 19 boats that will make up the fleet, Mr. Clark said.

But he said he did not foresee having to postpone starting the ferry service because he had budgeted extra time for just such a setback.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Fairies, Lost Children, and Cannibalism in 1830s Maine

blogspot.com

**March 21, 2017**

Last year I did a lot of research into New England fairy folklore for an upcoming project. I found a some strange and wonderful things, including an article called "The Water-Fairies" by Harley Stamp in the July - September 1915 issue of *The Journal of American Folklore*.

The article is an allegedly true account of an encounter four Penobscot hunters had with some supernatural creatures in Maine in 1835. I say "allegedly true" only because the narrative doesn't match the current normative culture's standards for reality, but standards (and perhaps reality itself) may have been different two hundred years ago.

The story starts off with the Penobscot hunters traveling into the wilderness to find game. They canoe up the Kenduskeag (an offshoot of the Penobscot River) and make camp near what is now the town of Kenduskeag. As they eat their evening meal they are besieged by strange noises:

Suddenly, while we were eating, we heard a noise or rumbling, like water rushing down from the mountains which surrounded us. We all stopped eating to listen. The noises continued, and then at intervals of about two minutes we heard what seemed to be millers driving their dogs into the logs and throwing their bars across them, then the filing of saws. We heard the sails of vessels flapping, the blowing of horns and drums... then from the south we came a rolling noise like thunder, and also one like a whistle heard through a tunnel; besides these, many strange sounds (forty-two every two minutes); and it seemed as if each one was louder and more distinct than the others.

One of the hunters thinks the noises are coming from witches on the mountains, while another thinks they are being produced by devils. They consult the oldest and wisest member of their party, a man named Neptune. He thinks the sounds are coming from a nearby lake, which he has been told is inhabited - but he doesn't say by what. (Suspense!)

The next morning the hunters hike up into the nearby mountains, where they find a large wigwam made of whale bones. No one is inside, but a big pot is boiling on the cooking fire. When they open it they find the arm, foot, and head of a child. Yikes! They also notice large forks and spoons (each about six feet long) resting against the wigwam's walls. They run back to their camp in terror, and that night they again hear the same sounds.

If I can interject here, I will just say that this is a very creepy set-up. Hunters alone in the wilderness, strange nocturnal noises, and a pot full of child body parts. At this point I would turn around and head home, but the hunters don't do this. They need to catch some game to feed their families, so the next morning they canoe further up the river.



The banks of the river are wide and sandy, and they see what at first look like multiple otter tracks in the sand. But on closer inspection they discover the tracks are actually tiny human footprints. Weird, but things get even weirder as they go further up the river. They come upon a miniature village made entirely of clay. It contains houses, stables, horses, and even people, but all child-sized, inanimate and sculpted of river clay. As they look through the village, Neptune tells them that it was made by water-fairies, or *warningmeksooark* in Penobscot. He had heard they lived nearby and had always hoped to see them because they can foretell the future. They are known to create sculptures from clay.

They return to their canoe and plan to continue up the river, but when they turn a bend they come across a huge crowd of water fairies running in many directions along the bank. The hunters don't really get a good idea of what they look like though, because the fairies see the hunters and dive into the water.

Again, I would probably turn around and head home at this point, but one of the hunters, Sauk Ketch, decides to capture a *warningmeksooark*. His friends bury him in the sand and then hide in the bushes. When the water-fairies finally emerge from the river and he rises up from the sand and grabs two of them. The rest disappear into the river.

The hunters are shocked when they see what a water fairy looks like:

... he had the most beautiful fine long hair; but his face was narrow, with so long a chin that it rested on his breast. His nose was so big and broad that you could see it on each side of his head when his back was toward you. His eyes were very narrow up and down; and his mouth was the shape of a sharp A, the point running up under his nose. He wore no clothing...

The hunters are even more shocked when the water fairies eventually lead them to see the king of their tribe, who is sleeping nearby.

... we saw before us, on the rock, a huge man. His gray hair was long and in ringlets. His neck was as large as a barrel. His feet were large, and he had on a strange sort of dress. On his feet were black shining moccasins with silver clasps. He had close-fitting leggings. His coat was olive-green outside, and bright blue and red inside... As his mouth was open, I saw he had two large teeth only, on his upper jaw, one of which was broken off.

The water fairies explain that their race is divided into twelve tribes, each ruled over by a king. The kings are able to travel through the air, and can live in water or on land. The kings catch children who fall into lakes or rivers and bring them to someplace safe.

That sounds nice, but what finally happens to the children that they save? Well, once a year the twelve kings gather together, kill the children, and eat them. Apparently the pot the hunters found contained the remains (or the beginnings) of their feast.

At this point I would definitely leave. And you know what? The hunters leave and head back home. That's the end of the story.

There are a lot of interesting things about this article. Water-dwelling fairies are found in the folklore of many northern New England Algonquin tribes, and they are generally benevolent. Even in this story the *warnungmeksooark* themselves seem pretty nice, but their kings are another matter entirely. Algonquin folklore also often describes malevolent beings who lure children to their doom, and the water-fairy kings seem to be a variant of this.

The sleeping king, particularly with his shiny buckled shoes, curly hair, and his brightly colored coat, seems to resemble someone of European descent. Maybe it could be a little bit of political commentary?

I really like the narrative arc of this story. The hunters slowly learn more as they travel further into the wilderness, and the strange noises and gruesome wigwam set a creepy mood. Neptune has always wanted to meet the water-fairies because they can tell the future. They do tell him they can do this, but he never gets to ask them any questions. My expectations for the story were foiled!

People do still see fairies in New England, but not quite like the *warnungmeksooark*. However, the frantic running of the water fairies does remind me of the these tiny high-speed cavemen seen on the Connecticut River. Perhaps they are the same entities? If so, let's just hope their kings aren't anywhere nearby.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

All over Ireland there are Fairy trees believed to be scared grounds for the 'wee folk'. The superstitions surrounding Fairy trees is still very strong amongst the Irish, even for those who don't believe in the wee folk, so they remain protected where they stand.

### **What is a Fairy Tree?**

A Fairy tree is usually a Hawthorn or an Ash tree but what makes them stand out from any other tree of its kind is their location. A Fairy tree is found standing by itself in a centre of a field or on the side of the road and they're quite easy to spot, if you know what you are looking for. Some of these trees have stones surrounding its base for protection but who put them there? The locals or the wee folk?

### **Fairy Trees in Irish Folklore**

Ireland is a place with thousands of folklore stories and Fairy trees are still commonly talked about to this day. Some believe these trees are the gateway between worlds for mortals and that of the faeries in the other-world.

Irish Mythology is split into four different cycles with the Mythological Cycle describing how faeries (Sidhe) moved to the other-world.

When the Milesians or Gaels arrived in Ireland they took up a dispute with the Tuatha Dé Danann, children of the Goddess Danu. The Tuatha Dé Danann retired underground and became known as the fairy people, sidhe, or the wee folk.

The wee folk had many entrances to the otherworld such as in burial mounds, under water and even at the base of Fairy trees. As you can imagine these gateways are extremely important for the movement of the wee folk so they are heavily protected by magic. You wouldn't be considered mad if you just so happened to spot a Pooka or Leprechaun at a Fairy tree.

### **Superstitions surrounding Fairy trees**

With Fairy trees being regarded as sacred sites for the wee folk there are many superstitions that surround them and as you've probably guessed involve magic and bad luck.

Some believe if you damage or cut down one of these trees you'll be faced with a life of bad luck. As you can imagine people are very weary of touching one.

Its certainly uncommon for farmers to work around these trees even if it does mean they cant grow crops where the tree stands. When travelling through Ireland you'll often see a perfectly cultivated field with a Fairy tree standing in the centre and untouched, evidence of a farmer unwilling to risk his luck.

There are also many stories around Ireland of road works being delayed simply because a Fairy tree would be standing its path, workers would refuse to touch the tree. In most occasions roads have been re-routed to by-pass the tree.



There are stories of the famous car manufacture DeLorean chopped down a fairy tree in order to build their factory in Dunmurry on the outskirts of Belfast. Its believed DeLorean failed due to bad luck from chopping down the tree.

If ever come across a fairy tree in Ireland our advice is to not go near it, any damage to the tree could bring unwanted bad luck.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Crash for cash fraudster used Toyota MR2 converted into 'fake Ferrari' to scam insurers out of £29,000

thesun.co.uk

The Sun, A News UK Company

A "CRASH for cash" fraudster who drove a replica Ferrari has been jailed after he was rumbled by a simple Facebook search.

Adam Islam said he didn't know who had smashed into his phoney supercar when he claimed £29,000 from LV insurance in September 2014.



*Looks can be deceiving: This 'Ferrari' driven by Islam is actually a modified Toyota MR2*

2

Looks can be deceiving: This 'Ferrari' driven by Islam is actually a modified Toyota MR2

Investigators quickly found Facebook photographs of him with Mohammed Khayer – the man who had just written off his car.

Islam was driving a Toyota MR2 that he had modified to look like an expensive Ferrari.

The 24-year-old from Barking, London, has been jailed for 18 months after his fraud was foiled by social media savvy investigators.

Khayer, 27, from Ilford in London was also charged with fraud and was handed a 12 month suspended sentence at Snaresbrook Crown Court in Greater London.

The pair's friendship was discovered after Islam received the large payout from the insurers.

They initially denied staging the crash but pleaded guilty to making a false claim.

Islam told LV he had pulled over in Barking, Essex, after the battery on his phone had run out.

He said Khayer then crashed into him in a rented Audi A1 he had picked up earlier that day.

Khayer would incur no personal cost by accepting liability for the accident because the vehicle was insured by hire firm Sixt.

He could then split the hefty insurance pay-out with Islam.

2

An image shows the damaged caused to the heavily modified Toyota MR2 in September 2014

Mark Stanger, prosecuting: "Khayer made a telephone call to Sixt to report he had been involved in a traffic accident in the east end of London.

"But there was a charade being carried out.

"Islam and Khayer pretended they didn't know each other.



*An image shows the damaged caused to the heavily modified Toyota MR2 in September 2014*

"Later the same day Islam said he had been involved in a traffic accident in a Toyota MR2, which he done up as a replica Ferrari.

"He said an Audi had driven into it him, and he was involved in a non-fault accident which was a matter he could make an insurance claim with his insurers LV.



2

*'The two were well acquainted': It turned out Khayer deliberately caused this damage to what at first seemed to be a supercar*

'The two were well acquainted': It turned out Khayer deliberately caused this damage to what at first seemed to be a supercar

"Accident Exchange visited Islam to take a witness statement, where he said that the man driving the Audi had said he swerved to avoid hitting a cat or a fox.

"This is what Khayer had told Sixt too.

"An investigation was carried out however that established that these two were well acquainted.

"They had co-advertised a van together on the internet and there were photos of them together on Facebook.

"Meanwhile, LV had unwittingly issued a cheque to Islam for £29,000.

"He took that cheque to the Money Shop and cashed it in."

Donald Trump's Ferrari expected to sell for more than £250,000

Judge Stephen Dawson told the pair: "Ironically the detriment of this is to the public because the insurers raise their premiums, passing on their losses.

"This was a relatively sophisticated offence by both of you.

"You both had to agree on your story to give to the fraudulent information to the insurance companies



"You pretended that you didn't know each other.

"We all end up paying more for car insurance because of fraud of this sort

"It means the trust that the public are given by insurance companies is eroded."

Earlier this month it was reported that a Ferrari that used to belong to David Beckham is up for sale for £95,000.

A 190mph Ferrari in a swanky part of London was clamped after its owner failed to get the vehicle taxed.

A Ferrari driver was awarded £10,000 because a pothole that would have cost £50 to repair damaged his motor.

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries, Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Hackers take over Randolph County radio station's alert system, send out messages about fake zombie attack

fox59.com

Posted 1:27 PM, March 1, 2017, by FOX59 Web



WINCHESTER, Ind.— The Randolph County Sheriff's department is assuring residents there is no zombie outbreak in the area.

The department says the radio station WZZY 98.3 fell victim to hackers, who got into the system and issued alerts about a zombie attack and disease outbreak from deceased bodies.

"There is no local emergency," the department said on Facebook. "We have contacted the radio station and notified the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Again, there is no emergency or disease outbreak in Randolph County."

An investigation is underway as to how the hackers gained access to the alert system.

*Editor's note: If you obtained or recorded one of these alerts, send it along to [fox59webteam@tribunemedia.com](mailto:fox59webteam@tribunemedia.com).*

40.171989 -84.981355

Online Public File • EEO Report • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy • 6910 Network Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46278 • Copyright © 2017, WXIN • A Tribune Broadcasting Station

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Fallen UFO turns out to be nothing but a very high tech balloon

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 15 Mar 2017 7:45 am



**Colombian villagers thought they had found a UFO when a strange object fell from the sky but it turned out to be a high-tech balloon belonging to web giant Google.**

Locals in the municipality of San Luis, in the central-western Colombian department of Tolima, called the police when they found the mangled device in a forest.

Video shows the futuristic-looking device crashed in the trees. A creased solar panel is visible.

But fears the object was of alien origin did not put people off taking a piece.

A police spokesman said: 'The device fell from the sky on Sunday, around 2 pm. Villagers found it in the middle of the forest area and informed police.'

'We went to the place where the device was found. We should inform that villagers destroyed the balloon and that some items had already been stolen from the scene.'

Tolima police commander Jorge Eduardo Esguerra said that investigations revealed the balloon and its attendant technology were part of (Google) X's Project Loon.

According to local media, the villagers thought that it was a UFO.

The scheme sends a series of balloons high into the atmosphere, skirting space. The equipment on board is intended to provide internet connections to far-flung rural communities.

Nobody was injured in the incident and what was left of the equipment was seized by authorities.

It was not clear whether they planned to return it to Google.

Since Project Loon's inception in 2013, 12 of its balloons are known to have crashed down to Earth, with one of them hitting power lines in Washington, USA.

The balloon does not technically belong to Google, but to X (formerly Google X), and is part of Project Loom. X is a subsidy of Google's parent company Alphabet, which was founded by Google's founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 2015 as a conglomerate to manage all the search giant's assets.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Father and son accused of rape want 'only law book that truly matters' at their trial: The Bible

By Kristine Guerra  
January 23 at 7:00 AM

washingtonpost.com

### **The Washington Post** Father and son accused of rape act as own lawyers

A father and son accused of raping a teenage girl over a three-year period and keeping her shackled in a basement have made it clear that they don't have faith in the law or in the people who practice it.

When they face an Ohio jury as they defend themselves against criminal charges that carry long prison sentences, they will rely on one book: The Bible.

Timothy Ciboro and his son, Esten Ciboro, both of Toledo, are each charged with multiple counts of rape. The trial is scheduled to start this week, months after the girl, who is Timothy Ciboro's stepdaughter, managed to unshackle herself and escape while her alleged abusers were gone, authorities said.

During a hearing Friday, the Ciboros made the unusual request of having access to the Bible, which they plan to cite as they defend themselves in front of a jury. The Bible, Esten Ciboro told a judge, is "the only law book that truly matters," the Toledo Blade reported.

"There's a great deal of strategy in Scripture and I use those strategies in everything I do," Esten Ciboro told the judge, according to the Toledo Blade's coverage of the hearing. "It's a vital part of everything I do."

Timothy Ciboro said he and his son intend to "use God's holy word to ask questions, questions that we believe are absolutely vital to our case," the paper reported.

*[She beat her son with a hanger — and said Indiana's religious freedom law gave her the right]*

Lucas County Common Pleas Judge Linda Jennings has decided to allow the two to bring their Bible during the trial, but she told them that they can't use the book to question witnesses.

"It's the court's opinion that while the Bible is very important, it is not a law book in a court of law," Jennings said, according to the Toledo Blade.

The Ciboros are accused of sexually assaulting the girl over a period of three years, from 2012 to 2015. They are each charged with three counts of rape, endangering children and kidnapping. Timothy Ciboro, who faces two additional rape counts, is also accused of sexually assaulting the girl's younger sibling during the same time period, the Toledo Blade reported.

The two men were arrested in May after the then-13-year-old girl escaped from the basement, where she allegedly was held for more than a year, authorities said. She was spotted about a mile and a half away, carrying a backpack and two bags, NBC affiliate WNWO reported.

She told police that she was fed spoiled leftovers and was forced to urinate in a bucket with ammonia.

The Ciboros were charged with kidnapping and endangering children shortly thereafter. They were indicted on rape charges in September.

The child's mother, Stafonda Hawkins, also was arrested on an unrelated parole violation, WTOL reported. The girl told police that her mother had left and that she had not seen her since 2012.

The father and son have been adamant about representing themselves despite repeated pleas from attorneys that having a lawyer is in their best interest.

During a hearing in November, Esten Ciboro said he would rather rely on his faith than on a lawyer.

"Professionals built the Titanic. Amateurs built the ark," he told Jennings, the judge, according to the Toledo Blade.

Earlier, Jennings told Timothy Ciboro that he could not represent himself because of his strange behavior in court.

For example, during an October hearing at which he pleaded not guilty to rape charges, he said he was charged with "offenses against [his] children," WTOL reported.

"What are the offenses that you're charged with against your children?" Jennings asked.

"Bad — things I don't want to talk about, your honor," Timothy Ciboro responded, according to WTOL.

Ultimately, though, the judge allowed both defendants to represent themselves, with appointed defense attorneys on standby.

*[Man accused of tax evasion says Indiana's religious freedom law exempts him from paying]*

This is not the first time that religion has been used, in some way, in a criminal case.

Last year, for instance, an Indiana mother argued that her decision to beat her son with a hanger was driven by her religious beliefs.

Kin Park Thaing, through her attorney, asked a judge to dismiss charges against her, arguing that Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, signed by then-Gov. Mike Pence in 2015, protected her from prosecution. An Indianapolis judge later denied Thaing's request. She pleaded guilty to battery and was sentenced to a year of probation.

In November, an Indiana man accused of not paying more than \$1,000 in state income taxes also invoked the state's controversial religious freedom law to avoid prosecution.

Rodney Tyms-Bey argued that paying taxes imposed a burden on his religious beliefs, although he declined to say what those beliefs were or how, specifically, they were affected by paying taxes.

It's unclear how Timothy and Esten Ciboro plan to use the Bible to aid their defense, or what part of it they plan to cite.

Jury selection will start Monday.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Officers exhume body of boy who was hit by train almost 100 years ago

metro.co.uk

Ashitha Nagesh for Metro.co.uk Saturday 11 Mar 2017 8:58 pm



Officers exhume body of boy who was hit by train almost 100 years ago

They could finally figure out who 'some mother's boy' is (Picture: LEX 18 News)

The FBI has exhumed the body of an unidentified teenage boy who was killed almost 100 years ago.

The resting place of the boy, who was hit by a train in Georgetown, Kentucky in 1921, is marked only by a tombstone that tragically reads: 'Some mother's boy'.

Now, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and the FBI hope that DNA evidence

will finally identify the victim.

They are hoping to contact the unknown boy's family, and apparently already have some ideas of who it might be based on boys who were reported missing in 1921.=



Officers exhume body of boy who was hit by train almost 100 years ago

This is all he's known by (Picture: LEX 18 News)

His body was exhumed on Friday morning from the Georgetown Cemetery, with the DNA being added to the Combined DNA Index System.

The system lets federal, state and local forensic labs exchange and compare DNA profiles digitally.

According to Emily Craig, from the NMUPS, the boy was in his late teens and had high-end clothes from Chicago – leading them to

believe he wasn't actually from the area.

Assistant Chief Robert Swanigan told LEX18: 'To my knowledge, I don't know of any other cases at this time where we have unidentified remains we've not been able to solve in Scott County.'

The FBI has only recently started carrying out such cold case investigations for free.

Previously, they would charge towns up to \$7,000 (£5,753).

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Feathers fly as pillow war overtakes downtown Los Angeles

yahoo.com

**AP** Feathers fly as participants take part in a giant pillow fight in Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Hundreds of people traded soft blows in a giant pillow fight that dwarfed even the biggest slumber party slugfests. Children, teens, adults and seniors swung pillows at one another for over an hour on Saturday. The annual event is held to celebrate International Pillow Fight Day. (AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The feathers were flying in downtown Los Angeles.

Hundreds of people traded soft blows in LA's Pershing Square in a giant pillow fight that dwarfed even the biggest slumber party slugfests.

Children, teens, adults and seniors swung pillows at one another for over an hour on Saturday. The annual event is held to celebrate International Pillow Fight Day.

Many wore pajamas, some wore masks and goggles.

By the time it was over the ground was so covered with feathers it looked like it had snowed on a sunny April afternoon.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Feisty ninja squirrels go nuts in fight over...some nuts as they battle for food

By Jane Lavender Abigail O'Leary 17:05, 30 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Photographer Martin Docker snapped the epic battle of the wrestling rodents in London as they went claw-to-claw**



These feisty squirrels were caught kung fu fighting in the grass

It looked like the pair were going totally nuts over some...well, nuts, as they scrapped ninja-style.

Going claw-to-claw in front of amateur photographer Martin Docker, the Londoner got some perfectly-timed snaps of the wrestling rodents.

Squirrels are famous for hiding nuts but they also have to protect their supply - not only

from other squirrels but also birds/

They regularly build 'deceptive' hiding places, where they dig a hole and then don't put a nut in it.



The rodents also have extremely keen eyesight, which makes them almost impossible to sneak up on when they are protecting their stash of nuts.

- © 2016 MGN Limited



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Firefighters in Wisconsin fight fire at their own firehouse

yahoo.com

**AP** MAYVILLE, Wis. (AP) — Firefighters in the Wisconsin community of Mayville had to respond to a fire at a familiar scene — their own firehouse.

Firefighters were dispatched round 10 p.m. Saturday after a passer-by reported seeing flames at the station, which is not staffed around the clock.

The volunteer fire department said in a statement Sunday that crews arrived to find a vehicle on fire inside the station and put it out. The fire was confined to the vehicle, but the station had to be ventilated due to the heavy smoke.

Investigators are still trying to figure out what sparked the fire. The department says the fire won't affect its operations.

Cleanup was underway Sunday.

Mayville is about 45 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Florida man steals from woman with disability, spends \$9,000 at strip club, police say

actionnewsjax.com

•

by: Ryan DiPentima, Palm Beach Post Updated: Mar 23, 2017 - 4:05 PM



A Florida man is accused of stealing \$138,000 from a woman with mental disabilities and spending \$9,000 at a strip club.

According to the Tampa Bay Times, 48-year-old William Tideberg of Holiday convinced 69-year-old Maryanne Andersen, who suffers from a mental disability, to move in with him from out of state. Tideberg stole the money from Andersen before leaving her alone in a house without

furniture, police said.

Andersen was living in Connecticut in 2015 when Tideberg met her through the internet. Authorities said he made trips to New England and eventually convinced Andersen to move into his home in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Tideberg told Andersen, who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was admitted to a Connecticut hospital for psychiatric treatment in 2014, that she was his girlfriend and fiancée while he tried to consolidate her assets into a bank account that he controlled. The Times reported that he called the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America 76 times in an attempt to transfer her savings to his account, but the association refused after hearing Tideberg coach Andersen on what to say, police said.

Authorities said Tideberg was eventually able to transfer money from another of her accounts, withdrawing \$134,910 over the counter and another \$4,020 from ATMs. He spent \$9,237 of the woman's money at a strip club in Holiday, Florida, police said.

Authorities arrested Tideberg Monday and charged him with two counts of exploitation of an elderly or disabled person. He remains in the Pinellas County Jail on \$50,000 bail.

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

*Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images*

## Connecticut Man Accused of Forging Mortician Credentials

By Len Besthoff

Published at 2:17 AM EDT on Mar 25, 2017 | Updated at 2:19 AM EDT on Mar 25, 2017

nbcmiami.com

A Torrington man is accused of hacking the system of a mortuary science school and forging paperwork that would qualify him as a licensed mortician, according to court documents.

Jonathan Ryan, 22, was charged with second-degree forgery and second-degree computer crimes after police said he forged documents to make it appear like he graduated from the Mortuary Science program at Lincoln College in Southington.

Ryan then helped prepare dozens of bodies for burial at Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home, which is owned by his father.

Last year, the director of the school, Dr. Paul Warren, contacted state police to investigate possible forgery at the school in June.

Warren said that Ryan had created a fake Lincoln College transcript by forging the college seal and registrar's name on a transcript in May 2015. Ryan also created a fake email address for a professor so he was able to get an apprentice embalmer's permit from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health.

Between sometime in 2015 and 2016, Ryan worked embalming or assisting in the preparation of roughly 60 bodies for burial at his family's funeral home in Torrington.

State police said Ryan's father Christopher Ryan told investigators he did not know his son obtained his credentials improperly.

Ryan said the reason he forged documents to become a mortician apprentice was actually part of a two-person investigative journalism project, according to arrest warrant documents.

According to the arrest documents, Ryan wrote in a submission to the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, in part:

"I find flaws in unsecure websites and human processes and my partner converts my findings into wonderful articles. We have been working on this little project of ours for over two and (sic) one half years, with little success until stumbling onto your website. It is mind boggling that you would leave such an important form, the Verification of Graduation and Projected Graduation Date forms, COMPLETELY (sic) unsecured. There was no password, there was no authentication, and there was no oversight for 6 (sic) months."

State police did find that Ryan attended Lincoln College from Sept. 4, 2013 to Dec. 1, 2013, but never got his degree.

Neither Lincoln College or the Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home returned NBC Connecticut calls for comment.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## The Forgotten Elephant of the Moulin Rouge Garden Party

messynessychic.com



MESSY NESSY

CABINET OF CHIC CURIOSITIES

September 18, 2015

It turns out that Nicole Kidman's fantastical elephant boudoir in Baz Luhrman's 2001 motion picture, *Moulin Rouge*, was not a just a Hollywood embellishment added to the iconic cabaret, but in fact, a very real fixture of the

Belle Epoque establishment, forgotten in the archives of Parisian history.

I found the uncaptioned black and white image, floating around on a Pinterest board of historical Paris photographs, and after a hasty Google reverse image search, I was admittedly amazed to learn that it was taken at the Moulin Rouge, circa 1900.



elephantroom

Of course, I went digging for more photographic evidence...

First of all, who knew the Moulin Rouge even had a garden, let alone a giant elephant in its backyard? When I think of the famous Pigalle cabaret, I think of a crimson red velvet cathedral of vice, not a leafy green garden party.

But the camera doesn't lie, and according to records, this is how the Moulin Rouge looked during its earliest years after

opening in 1889 at the foot of Montmartre (check out Dumbo's bottom to the left of the windmill ↓).



elephantroom3

The garden and its al fresco café was known as the Jardin de Paris Elephant, after the founders Charles Zidler and Joseph Oller purchased a giant stucco elephant they had seen exhibited at the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1889. At the Moulin Rouge, the elephant served as a luxurious opium den where for a single franc, gentlemen could enter by way of a spiral staircase inside the leg and be entertained by belly dancers (inside the belly of the beast).

And so it would seem that Hollywood's story of a tragic Parisian courtesan living inside a giant elephant at the Moulin Rouge isn't so farfetched.

You can even see quite clearly from this photograph ↓ taken from the street at the front of the cabaret, there's a tower-like room on top of his head or on his back.

**(And it's also worth noticing that fabulous castle to the left which has sadly long disappeared from the Moulin Rouge facade).**

Just as in Baz Luhrmann's musical, Satine's balcony to her boudoir, indeed sits atop the crown of a colossal hollow elephant.





moulinrougeelephant

(You get a better idea of the full Hollywood set design of Satine's boudoir here).

This artist's impression circa 1900 below, shows that the Moulin Rouge might have even installed a roller coaster in the garden at one time, perhaps for the World's Fair,



brack-rouge-103

which was held again in Paris in 1900, celebrating outlandish inventions and machines.

Charles Zidler and Joseph Oller wanted their Moulin Rouge, to be *the* attraction of Montmartre, and no doubt pulled out all the stops during one of the most expensive World Fairs in history.

But back to the elephant! Whilst digging, I also learned that the giant structure had been inspired by James V Lafferty's "Elephantine Colossus", a seven-story tourist attraction and hotel built on Coney Island in 1885, pictured below.

As well as a hotel, it served as an amusement bazaar and entertainment hall and from the observatory's telescopes in the elephant's eyes, it was claimed you could see as far as Paris. It later served as a brothel as Coney Island became more "established" and a touristy, but it when it caught fire on a fateful summer

night in 1896, it had not been used for several years.



moulinrougeelephant

Unfortunately, Moulin Rouge's elephant wouldn't last very long either, and it was torn down prior to the 1906 renovation of the cabaret hall and did not reappear upon its reopening.

As for the garden...

ABOUT NESSY

Mum & Dad named me Vanessa, but you can call me Nessy.

**WE DELIVER !**

**WE DELIVER !**

2016 - 13 THINGS LTD. All rights reserved.





Les nouvelles montagnes russes circulaires a voies superposees, dans le jardin du Moulin Rouge (Moulin-Rouge) a Paris. Gravure in La Nature : revue des sciences et de leurs applications aux arts et a l'industrie du 14 septembre 1901. !AUFNAHMEDATUM GESCHÄTZT! PUBLICATIONx!NxGERxSUIxAUTxHUNxONLY COR0785 Les Nouvelles Montagnes Russes a Dans Le Jardin you Moulin Rouge Moulin Rouge a Paris gravure in La Nature Revue the Sciences Et de leurs Applications aux Arts Et a l'Industry you 14 Septembre 1901 date estimated PUBLICATIONx!NxGERxSUIxAUTxHUNxONLY COR0785



elephantinecolossus



elephantconey

# THE ILLUSTRATED AMERICAN



A Coney island tragedy Burning of the Historic Elephant

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Former 'Power Ranger' actor pleads guilty to killing roommate with sword



Power Rangers at Comic-Con convention

Fans photograph the Power Rangers at the Comic-Con convention in San Diego on Sunday, July 29, 2007. (Disney / Bandai)

LANCASTER, Calif. -- A former "Power Rangers" TV actor has pleaded guilty to killing his roommate, who was stabbed to death with a sword.

Thirty-eight-year-old Ricardo Medina entered a plea Thursday in Los Angeles County Superior Court to

voluntary manslaughter with the use of a sword. He faces six years in state prison.

Prosecutors say Medina stabbed Joshua Sutter several times in the abdomen two years ago at their house in Green Valley, a mountain town north of Los Angeles.

The two had argued over Medina's girlfriend.

Medina played the Red Lion Wild Force Ranger on "Power Rangers Wild Force" in 2002. He was the voice of Deker on "Power Rangers Samurai" in 2011 and 2012.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Woman given 6-year's jail for killing cousin in Frankfurt exorcism trial

thelocal.de

AFP

news@thelocal.de

21 February 2017

09:04 CET+01:00

exorcismtrialmurder



One of the accused in court in Frankfurt. Photo: DPA

AFP

21 February 2017

09:04 CET+01:00

A German court on Monday sentenced a South Korean woman to six years in jail for the death of her cousin who was beaten and suffocated during an attempted exorcism in a Frankfurt hotel room.

Four other family members accused of taking part in the ritual, including the female victim's now 16-year-old son, were handed suspended sentences ranging from 18 months to two years, national news agency DPA reported.

Prosecutors said the victim, 41, named in court as Seonhwa P, was set upon after she began talking to herself and lashing out during a hotel stay in December 2015, leading the accused to attempt the "exorcism".

The woman's chest and stomach were beaten while she was gagged first with a towel and then a cloth-covered coat hanger during a two-hour ordeal, they said.

The victim suffered "massive chest compression and trauma to the neck" and died of asphyxiation.

Judges at the district court in the western city of Frankfurt found the victim's 44-year-old cousin, described as the main perpetrator, guilty of inflicting bodily harm causing death.

The guilty woman, named as Doeon K., had "taken it upon herself to decide over life and death", prosecutor Nadja Boettinger said during the trial.

Also accused were her son, 22, and daughter, 19, as well as a 16-year-old cousin.

In delivering his ruling, the presiding judge said the family had acted in the belief that they were chasing away the victim's demons, calling it "a tragic case", according to DPA.

After finding the woman's body at the hotel, police at the time also discovered a possible second victim in the garage of a house the group had rented in the town of Sulzbach.

The second woman, who was found alive, was badly injured and suffering from hypothermia and dehydration.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Debate prompts Garfield creator to clarify cat's gender

**AP** The Associated Press  
Associated Press March 2, 2017  
Pres



FILE - In this Nov. 27, 2008, file photo, the Garfield the Cat helium balloon appears to be peering at a Chicago Transit Authority worker on the elevated tracks inside Chicago's famed Loop during the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago. Garfield creator Jim Davis sought to quell a controversy over the cat's gender by telling The Washington Post on Feb. 28, 2017, that the cat is male. (AP Photo/Charles

Rex Arbogast, File)

Garfield's gender has become the subject of an internet debate.

The Washington Post reports (<http://wapo.st/2m0vwOR> ) Wikipedia locked changes on the animated cat's page after the site's volunteer editors battled over whether the animated cat is male or not.

The controversy bubbled up two years after Garfield creator Jim Davis told viral content site Mental Floss that as a cat, Garfield is "not really male or female."

Davis sought to clear up the controversy this week, telling the Post that "Garfield is male" and has a girlfriend named Arlene. Davis' spokeswoman tells The Associated Press that he also told the Post he likes animals because "they're not perceived as being any particular gender, race, age or ethnicity" and says the "humor could be enjoyed by a broader demographic."

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'Genetic freak' goat-sheep known as a 'geep' is born on farm

By Mert Su 16:29, 24 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**The farmer said the bizarre animal was born with legs like a goat but a woolly coat like a lamb and little horns**



<img class="video-thumbnail"

src="http://i3.mirror.co.uk/incoming/article9910759.ece/ALTERNATES/s1168v/shee

as a 'geep'.

Mr Uce said he had previously seen baby goats with three - and even six - legs but never one that looked like this before.



like her other kids.

"We are having to feed it ourselves by hand. The vets say it won't live for long but for now it is surviving."

The unusual baby animal has been examined by a local vet who confirmed that it was the unusual result of a pairing between a male sheep and a female goat.

The vet said that both sheep and goat DNA had come together in the embryo to create a mutant offspring.

A farmer could not believe his eyes when one of his goats gave birth to what appeared to be a rare cross between a goat and a sheep.

Stockbreeder Mustafa Uce, 24, who farms in the Belen district of southern Turkey's Hatay Province, said that he had never seen anything like it in his life.

Vets say it is an extremely rare example of a successful cross-species mating between a sheep and a goat, sometimes referred to

He noticed that the baby animal was very different when he was checking one of his goat's latest offspring .

He said that it had legs like a goat but a woolly coat like a lamb and little horns.

Mr Uce said: "Baby goats never have horns when they are born while this one has quite big horns.

"The mother has rejected the three-day-old kid because it looks nothing



Sheep-goat hybrids, which are sometimes called geep or shoat, are unusual but not unheard of.

Despite widespread shared pasturing between the two species, hybrids are very rare and most are stillborn.

- © 2016 MGN Limited



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## George Square statue's accessory rivals Duke of Wellington

scotsman.com



08:42Monday 06 March 2017

The Duke of Wellington statue on Glasgow's Queen Street has become famous for the traffic cone normally sported by the Iron Duke.

But now a statue in nearby George Square is accessorising.

The monument to Queen Victoria, created by Italian-born French sculptor Carlo Marochetti, was seen with an umbrella during this morning's wet weather.

Chris Cunningham, SNP Councillor for Garscadden/Scotstounhill, tweeted a photo of Queen Victoria with her umbrella with the caption: "Spotted in George Square. New trend? Duke of Wellington watch out!"

The statue of Wellington on his horse, outside Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art, is regularly seen with a traffic cone adorning the Duke's head.



© Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.



## German salon uses python to give customers neck massages

talkradio.co.uk

A hairdresser in Germany has started using an unusual employee to give his customers neck massages.

Rather than a person, Frank Doehlen uses a 13-year-old python to give massages at the Haar Mode Team salon in Dresden, according to UPI.

He was inspired to start the practice when he saw a similar technique being used during a trip to South Africa.

However the massages are only available to customers two days a week.

Doehlen said visitors to the salon can only have the massage by appointment as the size of the snake's terrarium means it cannot live in the shop full-time.

Instead, he brings Monty the python to work with him on request.

The snake measures four feet long and is also 90% muscle.

© 2017 Wireless Group Limited. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy are applicable to you. All rights reserved.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Creepy footage shows 'ghost of dead doctor' opening door at hospital

By Marc Walker 20:29, 22 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Terrified hospital staff call in priest after footage shows 'ghost of mischievous dead doctor' opening garage door**

**A video reveals an access gate gape open 'without human intervention' leaving staff quaking in their boots over suspected paranormal activity**



Staff at a 'haunted' hospital fear CCTV footage of a door mysteriously opening is down to the ghost of a dead doctor.

A monitor showing security camera video at the Hospital Parajón Ortiz de Famaillá in northern Argentina reveals an access gate gape open 'without apparent human intervention', reports d24ar.com .

It is not the first time employees at the historic hospital building have been left quaking in their boots over suspected paranormal activity,

``

according to the news website.

Apparitions appearing in corridors, mystery loud bangs and sudden drops in temperature have all been reported at the hospital during the hours of darkness.



The latest suspected sighting has been blamed on a mischievous medic who worked at the hospital before he died.

The deceased doc was said to have made jokes at the expense of both patients and colleagues during his tenure at the institution.

Others have pinned the bizarre incident on another former worker who suffered 'a traumatic death' after 'enduring a tense working climate' at the hospital.

It comes after dozens of people have been left

stunned by ghostly sightings at a British hospital.

The 18th century Glasgow Royal Infirmary has cared for the city's sick and dying for more than two centuries.



*The door opening by itself*



*Hospital Parajón Ortiz de Famaillá*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Couple spooked after they spot 'GHOST of old man and his dog' on romantic stroll

express.co.uk



# EXPRESS

Home of  
the Daily and  
Sunday Express

express\_logo

**Couple spooked after they spot 'GHOST of old man and his dog' on romantic stroll**

**A COUPLE out for a romantic night**

**time stroll on church grounds were spooked when they spotted what they believe could be the ghost of an old man and his dog.**

PUBLISHED: 00:00, Fri, Mar 10, 2017 | UPDATED: 13:54, Fri, Mar 10, 2017



MERCURY

Stacey Bresnen and her boyfriend Lee Stammers had just climbed the famous 199 steps up to the Church of Saint Mary in Whitby, North Yorkshire, when they snapped the spooky silhouettes.

The pair had been hunting for the graves of two people who were born and died on the same day when Ms Bresnen, 37, said she was blown away by the striking shape of an old man sat down to the right of some steps.

And when she looked at it further, she spotted a dog sitting to his right beneath the frame of a church door.

Ms Bresnen, from Seaham, Durham, said: "We'd just been for a pint but I wasn't that drunk that I was seeing things.

"I'm forever taking pictures and usually they're of nothing much but straight away I turned to Lee and said 'look at that man there'.

"It's quite atmospheric up around the church. It's right beside Whitby Abbey and there's a big graveyard and a big tradition of Goths in the town.

"We come here quite a bit, with and without the kids, and we love to walk around but I've never been spooked like this.

"It was one of those moments where you're glad someone else is there to see it with you so you know you're not going mad.

"It's not often you see something like this before you take a picture - normally you notice the little weird things afterwards.

"But with this one I knew it was something special. Lee was a bit freaked out by it.



MERCURY

"Straight away he said 'can you not see the dog?'. I'm very into things like this and I really believe it could be the ghost of an old man who used to walk his dog around Whitby."

Mum-of-six Ms Bresnen took the eerie picture on February 24 on a getaway with Lee without the kids.

Ms Bresnen said: "I must have thousands of pictures on my phone but nothing as incredible as this.

"You can see his arms, his jacket, his face, his eyes. I was speechless. The same with the dog - very vivid eyes and ears.

"Whitby is the sort of place where you wonder about these sort of happenings. Lee thinks I'm a bit of a spook but there's definitely something there.

"I wish I'd taken more pictures now because it was really freaky. The light comes across from this old flash light and it's really moody.

"Next time we're back I'll be checking if he's still there."



MERCURY

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



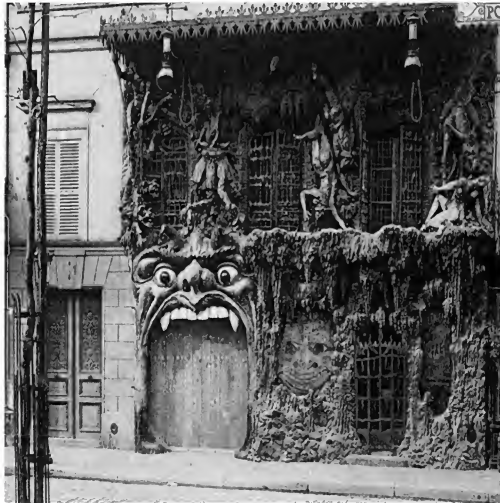
## The Bottle Smashing Ghost of Via Bava No. 6

esoterx.com

24 Friday Mar 2017

Posted by EsoterX in Anthropology, Folklore, History, Monsters, Mythology, Occult

*"We are all mortal until the first kiss and the second glass of wine"* – Eduardo Galeano



*This looks like a good place to express my inner poltergeist.*

The problem with poltergeists, apart from the wanton destruction and attempts to lure you into the television set, is their mercurial behavior. They tend to act inconsistently. After all, if you could reliably walk into a poltergeist-infested house and produce the same phenomena repeatedly, we wouldn't have to have these conversations about whether spirits, nasty or otherwise, actually exist. When stuff starts flying about the house guided by an unseen hand, one understandably regards this as a physical phenomenon. Nothing like getting clocked in the head by phantom-hurled dishware to wake up a little nascent empiricism and demand a natural explanation. Yet, what if we treat hauntings as a behavioral phenomenon, rather than a purely physical one? The committed physicalist will ultimately reduce psychological phenomena to electro-chemical reactions in the brain, but social psychologists, who spend a lot

of time trying to sort out why humans in the aggregate do not behave as expected have long been able to offer us a useful model we can apply to the inconsistency of poltergeists.

Kurt Lewin (1890-1947), one of the pioneers of applied social psychology, noticed how hard it was to actually predict people's behavior. This annoyed him. Hey, it annoys all of us. Essentially, after years of study he noticed that the same person in the same situation could not be relied upon to behave in the same way, nor would two different people placed in the same situation respond in the same way, and reasonably concluded that something more complicated had to be going on. Lewin was big into Gestalt Theory and thought there might be something to its central tenet that the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts," and puzzled how this could be applied to human behavior. Thus, Lewin suggested what has come to be a central theme in social psychology, that is, behavior is a function of the interaction of the person and the environment stating in no uncertain terms, "Even when from the standpoint of the physicist the environment is identical or nearly identical for a child and or an adult, the psychological situation can be fundamentally different" (Lewin, 1936, p24). Basically, the person (his past, present, future, personality, motivations, and desires) dynamically interact with his environment on a case-by-case basis and combine to form an interactive and dynamic system.

Now, folks who've been chasing poltergeists for these many years have often noticed that poltergeist activity tends to attach itself to a particular person, occurring more frequently in their presence or vanishing entirely when they are extricated from the situation. This of course suggests to many that poltergeist activity is an "evoked" phenomena. This is to say, that due to an association with or focus on a particular individual around who the bulk of the weirdness revolves, one might reasonably conclude that said person was in some sense "generating" or catalyzing the phenomena (when not simply assumed to be an outright fraud or hoaxster). This begs the question of why such phenomena could not then be produced on demand, or at least by reproducing the circumstances



under which they appeared. Any ghost hunter worth his Ouija board knows this is not the case. Why not then consider the possibility that poltergeist behavior is a function of person by environment (and by poltergeist as well, if we care to ascribe any independent existence to preternatural manifestations).

It's always easier to wrap ones head around something when you don't have to speculate in a vacuum, so let's consider the famous case of the Turin, Italy's bottle-smashing poltergeist at Via Bava No. 6. In 1900, Via Bava No. 6 was a wine shop called Bottigheria Cinzano in the Turin suburb of Vanchiga near the Piazza Vittorio-Emmanuele I. This modest little wine and spirits store was run by the proprietor, Signor Fumero, his wife, and a thirteen-year-old assistant/waiter, and was really a rather unremarkable establishment, a charming little place to get oneself a slice of pizza al padellino and a tasty glass of Barbaresco. In November 1900, the staff of the Bottigheria Cinzano first mentioned that things had been getting a little strange. "Raynero, the proprietor of the Annonciata Baths, situated at 51, Via del Po, was a friend of the Fumero family, and was informed at the commencement of November of the phenomena which had for some time past been occurring in that house. A cat seemed to be taken with strange mad attacks; it jumped as though possessed, and threw down the bottles. The food which had been placed in the kitchen cupboard in the evening disappeared during the night, and so on" (Joire, 1917, p102). Raynero was not entirely convinced, but decided to poke around, reporting a distinct level of weirdness.

**On November 27th, I was in the shop parlour with Fumero, whose wife had gone to Nole. I and one other person were seated at a table together; while, in the adjoining room, the assistant was engaged in washing bottles. The lad was in full view; and I myself did not lose sight of him for a single moment. All at once, a pair of shoes, thrown from the direction of the kitchen, came flying through the air, and fell at my feet. I instantly sprang up; and, followed by Fumero, rushed towards the kitchen to discover who had thrown them; but no one whatever was to be seen. The boy, during the whole occurrence, had not stirred from his place. Another day, whilst I was in the cellar with Signor Merini, an accountant, several bottles of wine toppled over, under my very eyes, and broke into fragments. Merini suggested that this might be caused by the fermentation of the wine in the bottles; whereupon several empty bottles turned over of their own accord, and broke, in a similar way. I can vouch for it that no human hands had touched any of the bottles" (Dubor, 1922, p224-227).**

One might understandably show some concern at the antics of a spastic cat and midnight refrigerator raids when you're trying to run a respectable business, but such nonsense might not even rise to the level of truly alarming. Sadly, the bizarre activity would shortly escalate. The bottle-smashing poltergeist announced its presence with a vengeance.

**On the morning of November 16th, when only the wife of the shopkeeper and the assistant were in the house, they saw first of all, according to what they said afterwards, a vessel containing liqueur, which was on the kitchen table turn over of itself; other vessels did the same; the furniture, the saucepans, and all kinds of articles commenced to dance about; some knocked together, others broke, others again disappeared entirely; the woman fainted with fright, the neighbours hurried in, and they telegraphed to the husband, who was absent from Turin, and who came back in all haste. All day long, under the eyes of several persons, the tables, chairs and utensils danced about. The phenomena continued on the following days, with only a few moments of respite. Meanwhile other similar occurrences began to take place in a cellar which the proprietor, M. Fumero, used for storing bottles. It was noticed that**

**when the cellar was entered, the bottles, empty and full, broke, always by the action of the same unknown agency. In vain did they have recourse to a priest who blessed the place. The police arrived in their turn, but they also were powerless; however, it was intimated to poor Fumero that this thing must stop, by love or by force. Fumero understood, and yielded to the argument, being already greatly injured by the material and moral damage which he had suffered (Lombroso, 1906, p367-368).**

Of course, in sleepy Vanchiga, the presence of a preternatural vandal was fodder for journalists. The local rag *La Stampa* ran an account with the impressive title, “The Spirit Devastators of the Via Bava” on November 19, 1900. Consequently, business boomed. Famed French parapsychologist Paul Joire happened to be living nearby in Turin, and upon reading the newspaper article immediately hopped a tram to visit the site of such anomalistic goings on.

**In the street a crowd of persons of all classes were struggling for entrance into the wine-shop; and in the shop itself a veritable swarm of drinkers were seated at the tables, and occupying themselves, between glasses, by composing epigrams about the spirits who to-day were dumb; others were trying to push their way through with their elbows, in order to make inquiries of everybody; to hear something related, to see, to touch, to examine, commencing with the bottles and the saucepans, even to the chairs, which, it is said, were broken, and several of which were transported from one place to another. At the far end of the shop, at the counter, through a cloud of smoke and dust, we could distinguish a tall, corpulent, red-faced man (the landlord), who was turning and bending to right and left, holding in one hand a bottle of wine and receiving in the other his customers’ money, in the midst of a tempest of voices, cries, commands, and protestations from all directions. Sometimes the price of the wine drunk by one customer, who had taken advantage of the crowd to slip away unseen, would be demanded from another; the anger of the master fell upon the waiter, a boy of thirteen years of age, who would have needed a hundred eyes and a hundred arms to have met the wants of everybody, and—most important thing of all—to make them pay (Joire, 1917, p102-103).**

Such was the burgeoning notoriety of the little wine shop and its bottle-smashing poltergeist that it came to the attention of the father of modern criminology Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909), who had taken an interest in spiritualism late in life and at the time was a Professor of Forensic Medicine in Turin. Lombroso was determined to investigate this occurrence. Oddly, Lombroso reported that when he arrived, anonymously at first, the proprietor Fumero informed him that although the events described in the papers indeed occurred, that “Professor Lombroso had come, and since then the disturbances had ceased”. As he was the Lombroso in question, Lombroso found this a tad odd, but when he revealed his identity, Fumero explained that the curious crowds descending on his establishment, while a financial boon, had become a public nuisance, and under threat from the police, and having heard that Lombroso had taken an interest, declared he had driven away the spirits in order to take off some of the official heat. Yet, the poltergeist phenomena were definitely still occurring. Lombroso settled in for an investigation.

**Lombroso, when himself investigating the matter, was not content to take any second-hand testimony. He visited the “haunted” house and witnessed certain phenomena, of which he gives the following account:—“The first time I entered Fumero’s cellar the place was in darkness; but the noise of broken glass, and of bottles rolling to my feet, was distinctly audible. The bottles were arranged in five compartments or ranks, one above the other. In the middle of the cellar was a fairly large table, and on it I placed six lighted candles. The light,**

however, had no effect on the phenomena; and the bottles were rolled, as by unseen hands, in the direction of the table, and broken to pieces beside it. In order to detect any possible trick, I made a close examination of the bottles, and satisfied myself that there was attached to them neither thread nor cord, by which their extraordinary movements could be controlled or accounted for. After an interval of a few moments, bottles began to fall, in twos and threes, from the various ranks. They descended quietly, and, as it were, deliberately, to the ground, in a manner which gave the impression that they were being carried in some unseen hand. When I quitted the cellar, the sound of broken bottles was audible all around me. Finally, at the end of November, the young assistant was sent away; and peace restored to the perturbed household. Here again, it appears that the phenomena were due to the presence of an adolescent, whose motivity externalized spontaneously, and whose invisible “double” abandoned itself to senseless practical jokes”. This, at any rate, was the conclusion arrived at by Lombroso; the theory of trickery being ruled out by the evidence of the facts. It is probable that the presence of Signora Fumero, whom Lombroso describes as in ill-health, and subject to hallucinations, contributed to the production of the manifestations, but that it was not indispensable is proved by the occurrence of phenomena, during her absence from home (Dubor, 1922, p224-227).

Often, the investigators of strange phenomena are described as unscientific or excessively credulous. This is because many are unscientific and excessively credulous. It would be hard to rank Cesare Lombroso among them. Dude basically invented scientific criminology. As he had verified to his satisfaction that the young teenage waiter was not directly to blame, yet the disturbances ceased when he was sent away, this led Lombroso and other investigators of poltergeist phenomena to speculate on what sort of natural mechanism could lead to such effects.

The phenomena ceased when a boy employed in the store was sent away, and a hasty critic might assume trickery on his part. But the boy was not in the cellar when Professor Lombroso carried out his investigations. There seems reason to suppose that these occurrences are generally due, at least partly, to the presence of young people, perhaps because of their great vitality. If we look on a human body as a reservoir of life-force which during growth is rapidly increasing in capacity and taking in that force from higher sources, we may perhaps conceive of an overflow, so to speak, if the enlargement of capacity does not proceed at an even rate, while the downrush of “force” continues. This overflow may then manifest as physical force outside the person’s body, as it would have manifested as physical force inside it—increased strength—if there had been no check. This suggestion is, of course, no more than a vague guess. It does, however, enable us to visualize a possible “animation” which would render these super-normal activities of non-living matter less incredible (Hill, 1919, p129-130).

No further disturbances surrounding the teenage waiter were ever reported at other establishments where he found employment. Freaking poltergeists just don’t like to validate theories, but what if a poltergeist is a behavioral phenomenon in Lewin’s sense – that each case is a function of person by environment, that is the current psychological state of an individual in all its complexity and the social/physical environment they find themselves at the time. This might also account for the fact that sometimes poltergeists irritatingly do seem to follow people. Maybe we’re all carrying around a poltergeist, waiting for the right social environment to give expression to it. As Antonio Porchia said, “He who does not fill his world with phantoms remains alone”.



## References

- Dubor, Georges de. The Mysteries of Hypnosis (Les Mysteres De L'hypnose). London: W. Rider & son, Ltd., 1922.
- Hill, J. Arthur 1872-1951. Spiritualism, Its History Phenomena And Doctrine. New York: Doran, 1919.
- Joire, Paul Martial Joseph, 1856-. Psychical and Supernormal Phenomena: Their Observation And Experimentation ... New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co, 1917.
- Lewin, Kurt. Principles of Topological Psychology. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1936.
- Lombroso, Cesare. "The Haunted Houses Which I have Studied". The Annals of Psychical Science v3. London: Office of the Annals, 1906.
- Lombroso, Cesare, 1835-1909. After Death—What?: Spiritistic Phenomena And Their Interpretation. Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, 1909.

---

*Blog at WordPress.com.*

## Mystery over 'ghost pilot' who vanished after plane crashed

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 22 Mar 2017 6:01 am



The pilot was flying a Cessna 172 similar to this one (Picture: Getty)

A pilot has gone missing after a plane crashed in Ontario, Canada.

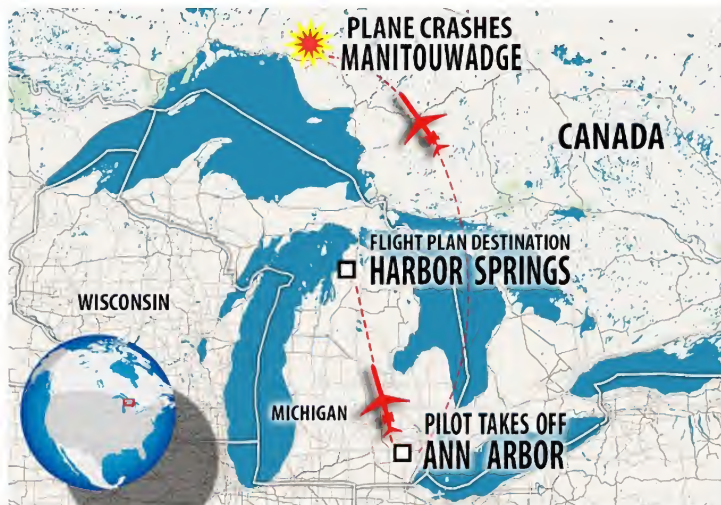
He left Ann Arbor Airport, Michigan, last Wednesday after renting the plane then the wreckage of the aircraft was found 285 miles away in Canada.

Investigators have not been able to locate a body or footprints in the snow around the wreckage, according to the Chronicle Journal.

Peter Rowntree said: 'When [the pilot exited, and how [he] exited is still a mystery. The only way in or out is

through the two main cabin doors.'

He added that the plane, a Cessna 172 registered to the University of Michigan Flyers, was not designed to carry parachutes.



Mystery over 'ghost pilot' who vanished after plane crashed

Picture: MailOnline)

It is believed the pilot was a Chinese national and graduate of the University of Michigan, however his identity has not been released.

He is said to be experienced and it is thought that he had put the plane on autopilot taking him on a path to Harbor Springs.

The plane came down in woodland near Manitowadge, Canada.

Sergeant Peter Leon from the Ontario Police, said: 'We were unable to locate the whereabouts of the pilot.'

Police declined to comment on whether or not it may have been a suicide.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Family searching for answers after capturing ghostly image on lawn of new home

By Joshua Barrie 17:58, 15 JAN 2017 Updated 18:04, 15 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk



Wait for it...

Someone is asking people on the internet about a bizarre pair of photos.

The pictures were snapped in quick succession. In one, we see a simple image of a lawn and trees, bathing in the light of a full moon.

But then a small figure seems to appear in the second, blurred in the shadows moving from left to right.

Of course, there are plenty of possible explanations. Some sort of animal? A trick of the light? Who knows, but the photographs are causing people to ask questions.

### Obviously, some think it's a ghost



The photos were posted to Imgur by MeTarzanYouJane, who wrote: "A family member of mine snapped these two photos on the night of the abnormally large full moon.

"The time frame between the two photos was approximately two seconds. What interested me is neither of these family members have heard of photo shop; much less used it.

"This was taken in the front yard of a house they had recently purchased and hadn't even completely moved into. Things I have noticed that intrigue me: it appears to be on two hind legs, it produces a shadow in comparison to the first photo, and it is mostly opaque besides it's what I assume is a face.

"These things excluded it from being a smudge on the lens for me, because smudges don't produce shadows."

MeTarzanYouJane assures people that he didn't doctor the image. You choose whether you want to believe it.

On this Reddit thread, there are numerous explanations. Photographers are fascinated.

We like this idea best – because, you know, the mysterious and the supernatural are a more thrilling proposition than a broken lens, aren't they?

"That's a f\*\*\*\*\* leprechaun," Binkylives says.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Terrified mum says evil ghosts that attacked her have forced her out of her home

By Tom Kershaw 18:31, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 20:07, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Terrified young mum claims evil ghosts left her with a CLAW mark and forced her out of her council flat

#### Tacy Bruce has been told that the flat could be built on a burial ground



A mum claims she has been forced to leave her council flat by evil spirits which keep moving objects and have even SCRATCHED her.

Tacy Bruce says that despite her home being exorcised three times it is still inhabited by ghosts which can take the forms of a child, man or animal.

The 21-year-old has now had to move into her parents home because she is too scared to stay there and says the local council won't

rehouse her .

She claims the ghosts are picking on her one-year-old son.

She says they have also moved items around her one-bed flat in York and she has found Calpol sprayed over her cooker and had her coffee jars rearranged.

The paranormal activity has also seen toy cars make noises when they are switched off and plugs push themselves out of walls.

She has even taken a series of pictures which she claims captures the spirits.

Speaking about the pictures, beauty therapist Tacy said: "I'm sick of people telling me they are reflections, light or dust."

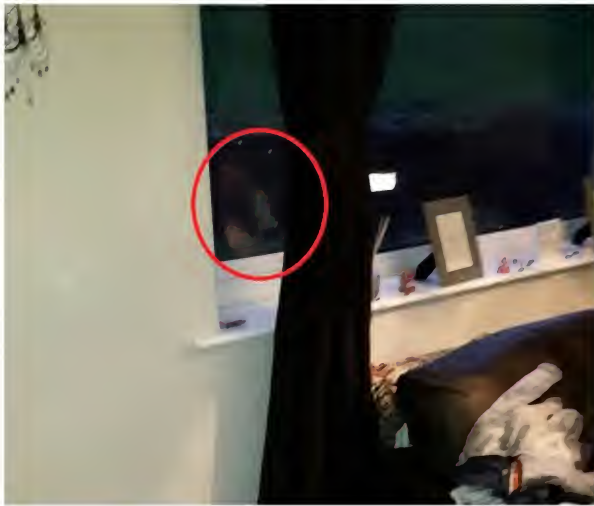
She added: "I'm petrified to go back there with my son - I feel uncomfortable in there and the atmosphere changes at night.

"My son would be screaming from morning to night and as soon as he came out the house he was a completely different child."

The mum-of-one says that she would "rather live in a box room at her mum's house" than her haunted flat - which is believed to be built on land of a former burial ground.

Describing the attacks, Tacy said: "Four days ago I went back to the flat and ended up being scratched.

"I know it seems far-fetched, but I had my hair dryer plugged into the wall and the plug came out of the socket all by itself.



"I then went downstairs with a pain on my back and there was a big 5cm scratch.

"It looked like a claw mark and it disappeared the next day."

Speaking about the affect it has had on her one-year-old son Josh, she added: "He continuously cries and doesn't act like that anywhere else.

"People have said don't take him back because he could be seeing something that I'm not.

"This could lead to problems in later life, psychological

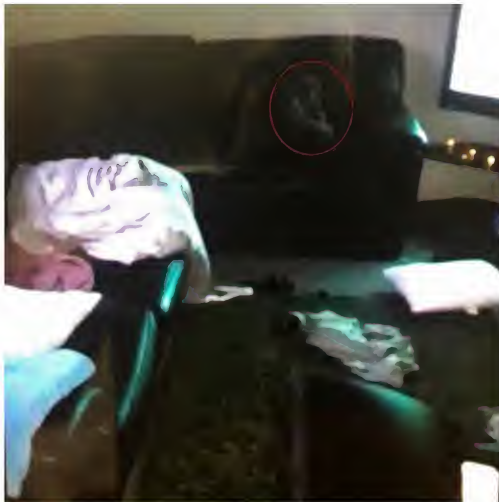
and waves things."

Tacy said the 50-year-old property used to be occupied by an elderly man who committed suicide.

She believes the man, who lived in the property for 25 years before her, was possibly driven to committing suicide because of the same paranormal activity she experienced.

The man did not die in the house, but took an overdose and later died in hospital.

She said: "After a few run ins with the ghosts I decided to read up about the property online - and I wished I hadn't.



*Image of a 'ghost' in her York flat*

"Like, this old man was stuck with whatever is still in there could - which have drawn him to do it.

Adding: "He had no family and was left alone with the problem."

Tacy also says following bouts of spiritual rituals, blessings and exorcisms performed at her property - the ghouls are still lurking at her home.

She has been told that the address could be built on a burial ground and "strange smells" continue to fume from the back bedroom since September 2016 when she moved in.

Miss Bruce says the supernatural beings have taken the form of a small child, a man and an animal.

She says she also has videos of 'orbs' or beams of light moving quickly across the room.

The flat has been blessed three times, including by priest Canon Alan Sheridan and the property was even visited by psychic medium Lillyanne.

Tacy claims to have never believed in ghosts before moving into the home - but she can list a number of unexplained supernatural events which have occurred.

She claims she woke up one morning to find the contents of a Calpol bottle poured across her cooker despite leaving the lid screwed on.

Tacy says Josh becomes inconsolable while in the house and believes the ghosts are tormenting him - because he acts like "a different child" outside the premises.

She added: "I've felt like something is making me angry and it changes how I think and feel.

"I've never believed in ghosts before but I do now and nobody can say to me 'they don't exist'."

James Bailey, landlord services manager at City of York Council, said: "In line with our usual assessment processes, we have considered the evidence provided, visited the property and interviewed the tenant.

"We have found that this case does not meet the criteria to move the tenant, who we have advised on their rehousing options."

Tacy has hit back at criticism from people claiming that all she wanted was a new flat.

Asked what she thought of people saying she was making up the tale because she wanted a new flat, Tacy said: "It's nothing to do with the flat itself, I love it and is in an ideal location and just a five minute walk from the city centre and is picturesque.

"I would take living in a cardboard box over that [the flat]. It has a brand new bathroom and comments to getting a two-bed is nothing to do with that.

"I just want a like for like swap and that is what I have asked for."

She added: "All I want is somewhere safe to raise my child."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



**Springfield's new giant noodle harbors no self-doubt**Thomas Gounley, [TGOUNLEY@NEWS-LEADER.COM](mailto:TGOUNLEY@NEWS-LEADER.COM)[news-leader.com](http://news-leader.com)

# SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

© 2017 [www.news-leader.com](http://www.news-leader.com). All rights reserved.*Buy Photo*

A newly installed sculpture depicting a giant noodle sits in the Kraft Foods plant parking lot in Springfield, Mo. on Jan. 4, 2017. (Photo: Guillermo Hernandez Martinez/News-Leader)

Without fanfare, Springfield recently became home to a giant noodle.

The massive macaroni mock-up is 20 feet long, 4 feet wide and 10 feet tall. It is yellow. It is reminiscent of a smile, or maybe your childhood, unless mom and dad bought generic.

There are five words on the side of the prodigious pasta production: "You know you love it." The giant noodle harbors no self-doubt.

It sits on the grounds of the city's Kraft Heinz plant. The Noodle — Kraft Heinz spokeswoman Lynne Galia always capitalized the word in correspondence with the News-Leader — is easily visible from East Bennett Street. It is, however, placed behind the fence that surrounds the property.

The implication for the general public is clear. You can't canoodle with this noodle.

The cheesy carbohydrate clone itself weighs about a ton, but when you count the extra weight added to stabilize it, the structure as a whole is about 10,000 pounds. The Noodle — we will now consider this a formal name — is not going anywhere.

In a series of emails, Galia laid out The Noodle's history. It was installed outside the Kraft Foods headquarters in Northfield, Illinois — about 20 miles north of downtown Chicago — in 2012. The company was purchased by H.J. Heinz Co. in 2015, resulting in co-headquarters in Chicago and Pittsburgh.

The Noodle needed a new home. It was installed in Springfield in late November.

Why Springfield? Use your noodle.

A newly installed sculpture depicting a giant noodle sits in the Kraft Foods plant parking lot in Springfield, Mo. on Jan. 4, 2017.

The plant here produces Kraft Mac & Cheese, of the bright yellow-and-blue boxes, as well as cheese products like Kraft American Singles and Cracker Barrel chunk cheeses.

"The Noodle is a fun way to commemorate a brand we're proud to make in Springfield," Galia said.

There is another giant noodle on the grounds of Kraft Heinz's plant in Champaign, Illinois, the one other place where the company produces Kraft Mac & Cheese.



(Photo: Guillermo Hernandez Martinez/News-Leader)

Champaign's noodle has been in place since 2012, and Instagram users have shared photos of it in rain and in snow, on bright sunny days and as dusk rolls in.

"It's kinda cheesy, but I like it!" one user wrote a year ago. "No, wait. They're right, I love it."

The giant noodles were first constructed as part of a marketing campaign that kicked off in 2010. According to the Chicago Tribune, one spent much of the 2010 Major League Baseball season installed outside Wrigley Field, not far from the statue of Cubs legend Ernie Banks.

Giant noodles were also spotted that year at Chicago's Navy Pier, San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf Pier 39 and Boston's Faneuil Hall, according to a review of media coverage and public Twitter posts. Over the next few

years, they appeared, at least briefly, at Philadelphia's Love Park, San Francisco's AT&T Park, Ohio's Cedar Point amusement park and Illinois' Six Flags Great America.

At the various stopovers, the giant noodles weren't fenced in, but human contact was still discouraged.

"For Your Safety, Please Do Not Climb on the Big Noodle," read a sign outside Wrigley.

The most controversial moment for the giant noodles came in 2013 when one was temporarily stationed outside the University of Michigan's football stadium. The move prompted concern from some fans that excessive commercialization was creeping into what's known as the "Big House."

The university's assistant athletic director told the Ann Arbor News that it was "kinda funny" that "everyone seems to be fixated on a noodle and not about a football game being played tomorrow." But he pledged it would be removed before kickoff, which apparently kept the controversy from boiling over.

The noodles installed in Springfield and Champaign, Galia said, are not the same fantastical foodstuff facsimiles that traveled the country for several years.

Springfield's giant noodle is about seven miles from Springfield's giant fork.

"The Noodle will be a permanent fixture in Springfield," Galia said. "It's mounted with spotlights to shine at night."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Girl aged 11 set to become Britain's youngest mother

By Benjamin Russell 00:43, 17 MAR 2017 Updated 08:00, 17 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A girl of 11 is set to become Britain's youngest mum.

The child is expected to give birth in the near future.

The father of the baby is believed to be only a few years older than the mother, according to police.

Further details of the pregnancy cannot be made public for legal reasons and the local authority is seeking strict reporting restrictions in the family division of the High Court.

Britain's current youngest mum gave birth in 2014 when she was 12 and the father was 13 - giving them the lowest combined age of any British parents.

The toddler is now looked after by her 28-year-old gran, while her mum attends school.

The UK's youngest dad is Sean Stewart, of Bedford, who became a father at the age of 12 in 1998.

In 2009, Alfie Patten from Eastbourne, East Sussex, claimed he had made his 15-year-old girlfriend pregnant when he was just 12.

But DNA tests later established that a 15-year-old boy was the actual father.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Girl wears penis ring like a bracelet after aunty's boyfriend left it out metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.uk Monday 3 Apr 2017 12:31 pm



*Girl wears penis ring like a bracelet after aunty's boyfriend left it out*

Little Macy thought she'd found a new pink watch to wear (Picture: Mercury Press)

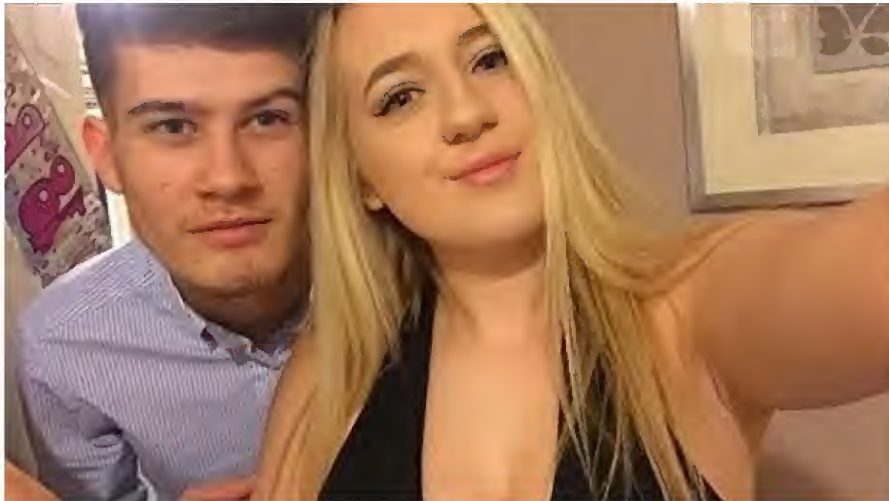
**A boyfriend has learnt a valuable life lesson – don't leave sex toys in reach of children.**

Ben Lauder, 20, had left his cock ring on the bedside table after a night of passion with his 18-year-old girlfriend, Amy-Jade Barlow.

But he immediately regretted it after his girlfriend sent him a picture of her two-year-old niece, Macy, wearing the pink sex toy with an attachable vibrator like a bracelet and showing it to all the family.

Ben had just finished work when Amy-Jade texted: 'ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!?!?!'

'I just replied asking "What?" and I was trying to think what I'd done wrong now. I was not expecting to get that at all, when the picture came through I just couldn't believe it,' he said.



*Girl wears penis ring like a bracelet after aunty's boyfriend left it out*

Ben Lauder and Amy-Jade Barlow were mortified (Picture: Mercury News)

'Amy-Jade's niece had been running around with it on her wrist like a watch.. I was so embarrassed.'

Mortified, the girlfriend quickly whipped the cock ring off her niece's wrist before stashing it in a new hiding place.

But the worst was still to come, when she was faced with the 'awkward' job of explaining the ordeal to her mum and big sister.

She said: 'I found the whole thing so funny right away but it was so awkward explaining what had happened. My mum kept asking what it was but I just told her she doesn't want to know.'

'I took it off her right away but she cried when I took it away. It's now in a new very safe hiding place but Macy keeps asking for it and looking in my drawers.'

Amy-Jade texted Ben a picture of her niece showing of her new watch (Picture: Mercury News)

While Ben's next visit to Amy-Jade's house was tense at first, he is relieved that everyone has found the incident so funny.



'All our friends think it is brilliant, so many people have had a good laugh about it. One of my friends said it was the best thing that had happened in 2017 so far,' he said.

'Amy-Jade and I both have the same sense of humour. It keeps stuff interesting and I think it keeps our relationship healthy.'

This is not the first time the couple have accidentally overshared with Amy-Jade's mum as she once discovered a sexy nurse costume Ben bought 'as a joke'.

*Girl wears penis ring like a bracelet after aunty's boyfriend left it out*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man known as Godfather of Grass back in US; pot charges loom

yahoo.com

**AP** BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A legendary outlaw known as the Godfather of Grass who disappeared almost a decade ago while federal agents were closing in on him was deported from Canada on Wednesday and was being held in a Vermont prison pending his return to Kentucky to face marijuana charges.

John Robert "Johnny" Boone was turned over to U.S. authorities by Canadian officials at the Highgate Springs port of entry. He was then taken to federal court in Burlington, where he was ordered held until he can be returned to his home state, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Curtis said.

Boone, 73, was convicted in the 1980s and spent a decade in prison for what prosecutors called the "largest domestic marijuana syndicate in American history." They said he was the head of the Cornbread Mafia, which had 29 farms in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Eventually, 70 Kentucky residents were charged with growing 182 tons of marijuana.

During Boone's 1988 federal court sentencing hearing he invoked the hardships of the area where he lived southeast of Louisville.

"With the poverty at home, marijuana is sometimes one of the things that puts bread on the table," Boone said. "We were working with our hands on earth God gave us."

Boone, who was featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted" and sparked a Facebook page called Run, Johnny, Run, has been described as a tattooed Santa Claus. Federal authorities who searched for him said that proved as difficult as "trying to catch a ghost."

Boone, also known as the King of Pot, fled to Canada after a 2008 indictment on more federal marijuana charges in Kentucky.

The Montreal Gazette reported that Boone was arrested Dec. 22 by Montreal police at a shopping center.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Gold hoard found stuffed in old piano is 'life changing' stash of sovereign coins

metro.co.uk

Ashitha Nagesh for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Mar 2017 2:20 pm



Just part of the incredible 'piano hoard' (Picture: Portable Antiquities Scheme/Trustees of the British Museum)

A hoard of gold found inside an old piano has turned out to be a collection of sovereign coins.

When the piano's new owners in Shropshire had the instrument returned and repaired before last Christmas, they discovered a hoard of gold stashed inside.

Now, an inquest in Shrewsbury has heard that the collection consists of an undisclosed number of coins dating from 1847 to 1915.

Experts reckon they were 'deliberately hidden' inside the piano, and could be worth a 'life changing' sum of money, the BBC reported.



The oldest coin in the hoard dates back to 1847 (Picture: Portable Antiquities Scheme/Trustees of the British Museum)

The oldest coin in the hoard dates back to 1847, and bears the face of Queen Victoria.

Shrewsbury Coroner's Court, which also deals with the valuation of treasure, heard senior coroner John Ellery describe the piano's origins.

He explained that the piano was made by Broadwood & Sons in London, and initially

sold to Messrs Beavan and Mothersole from Saffron Walden in Essex in 1906.

However, its ownership from then until 1983 – when it was bought by a family in that area who later moved to Shropshire – remains unknown.

The coroner is now hoping to find out where it was between 1906 and 1983, appealing for information from people from the Essex area.

No one knows the whereabouts of the piano between 1906 and 1983 (Picture: Peter Reavill)

Ellery has deferred the conclusion of the inquest to allow more time for anyone with information to come forward.



If the coroner finds they were hidden with the intent of future recovery, the coins will qualify as 'treasure' and become the property of the Crown.

However, this is providing the original owner or their heirs don't come forward to prove their claim to it.

Peter Reavill, Finds Liaison Officer at the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme at Shropshire Museums, was the first person to find out about the hoard.

He wouldn't reveal the coins' true value, but did say they had 'the potential of yielding a life-changing sum of money'.

'It's not the sort of money you would tuck away and forget,' he continued. 'It is a lifetime of savings, and it's beyond most people.'

The inquest will resume on April 20.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Schoolchildren give goldfish Freddy and Bubbles Viking funeral

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Friday 3 Mar 2017 9:12 am



Bubbles and Freddy are given the send-off they deserve (Picture: Centre Press)

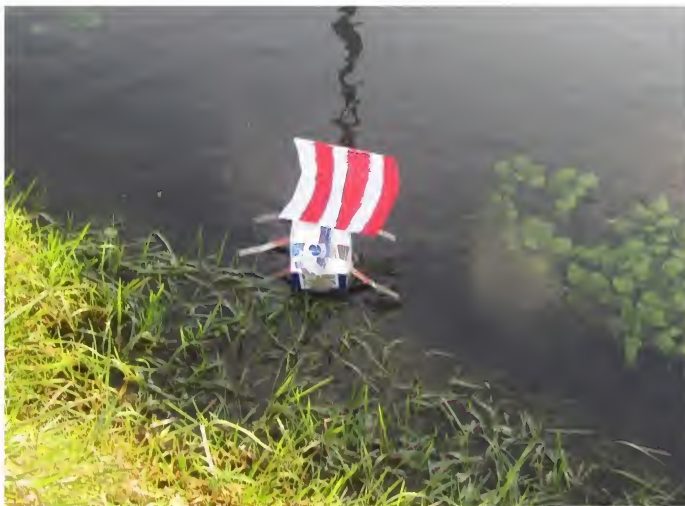
A group of school pupils gave their pet fish a flaming Viking send-off – by putting them in a cardboard boat and setting them on fire.

Beloved classroom pets Freddy and Bubbles died just before pupils were beginning their new history project.

Both fish were pushed out to Valhalla in longships that they made out of cereal boxes and egg cartons in small groups.

The class, from Kirkwall's Papdale School in Shetland, also wrote and read out memoirs in tribute to their fish friends.

The boats were then set alight in a traditional Norse ceremony as they floated across the stream – though one ship almost capsized as it burned.



They were put into a Viking longboat (Picture: Centre Press)

Teacher Mrs Corey Eddington said she surprised the class with the goldfish as a Christmas present – but they unfortunately died last month.

She said: 'The pupils loved the fish and thought they were so fun. They took turns cleaning the water.

'They believed the fish had their own little personalities too. Freddie was greedy and fat – he would always get to the food pellets first.

'Bubbles was shy. She would hide in the plants. We were gutted the day they died. It was a really sombre day.'

Goldfish Bubbles(L) and Freddy(R) before their untimely death (Picture: Centre Press)

Mrs Eddington said it was one of the pupils who came up with the idea to give the fish a Viking send-off.

She added: 'They asked if we could all ride in a big boat behind them – but I think that was a bit ambitious.

'They were so inspired and enthusiastic and made intricately designed boats.





'Now when we ask what Valhalla is, the pupils say "That's where Freddy and Bubbles are".'

They are now in Valhalla (Picture: Centre Press)



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Got a spare \$3.85 million? Oregon town could be yours

yahoo.com



By Tom James

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Aspiring property moguls take note – the town of Tiller, Oregon, is for sale, asking price just \$3.5 million. For an extra \$350,000, you can have the old school too.

The mostly uninhabited, unincorporated town about 225 miles (362 km) south of Portland originally went up for sale in 2015, but that did not include the building that used to house the school, said Garrett Zoller, the owner of Land and Wildlife, the real estate firm selling the 250-acre (100-hectare) town.

The current deal, at a reduced price, includes six houses and an apartment, industrial and commercial lots, and a building that once housed a gas station and general store. Adding the school, on an adjacent parcel, swing sets and all, would set a buyer back about \$3.85 million.

About 250 people live in the surrounding area. But aside from the family that owns and is now selling the town, only two residents remain in Tiller itself, a former teacher who lives next to the school, and the pastor of the local church. Neither of their parcels is for sale, Zoller said in a phone interview on Monday.

The emptying out of the town came as timber harvesting declined in the region and the town's mill closed, he said.

"When the federal money started dwindling away for timber, basically the mill shut down," Zoller said. "And when the mill shut down, a lot of the loggers started having to go away."

The family that owns Tiller now, he said, accumulated the town lot by lot as other families left.

Daydreamers aside, a complete town could also be an opportunity for a developer, Zoller said, since part of the town has already been divided for a 13-acre (5-hectare) subdivision.

He said he had fielded calls from would-be buyers ranging from Chinese investors to people interested in starting medical facilities and hemp-growing operations.

(Editing by Patrick Enright and Peter Cooney)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Attorney: Home owners got another letter from 'The Watcher'

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press March 29, 2017

**WESTFIELD, N.J. (AP)** — A New Jersey couple who claim they were scared away from their home by creepy letters they received from "The Watcher" say another letter was delivered.

Lee Levitt, an attorney for Derek and Maria Broaddus, wrote in a legal brief that the letter arrived in late February, a few weeks after a tenant rented and moved into the Westfield home. It's the fourth letter the couple has received from "The Watcher," who claims he is the rightful owner of the home the Broadduses bought for nearly \$1.4 million in 2014.

Levitt says the letter contained specific threats and was "more derogatory and sinister than any of the previous letters." Westfield police declined to comment on the latest letter, citing an ongoing investigation.

In one of the earlier correspondences, the stalker asked whether the new family brought him the "young blood" that he requested. The Broadduses, who have young children, refused to move into the home and have been unsuccessful in their attempts to sell the property.

They sued the prior owners of the house in June 2015, claiming that they also received a letter from "The Watcher" but never disclosed it. That family has since countersued, stating that the letter they received was not threatening and alleging that they were defamed.

The Broadduses have said they can't live in the house because of the letters, which they say came from someone with a "mentally disturbed fixation" on the home.

They are also suing Westfield because the town's planning board rejected their plan to raze the house and subdivide the land so they could build two houses.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Urban myth proves true: Grammar vigilante is fixing UK signs

yahoo.com

**AP** LONDON (AP) — It's an urban myth come true — the presence of a man dedicated to ridding the English city of Bristol of grammatical errors in its shop signs.

He goes out at night with a self-styled device used to cover up misplaced apostrophes from street signs in the city 120 miles (195 kilometers) west of London. He uses stickers, not paint.

The man has not been identified but he told BBC in a report broadcast Monday that he doesn't consider his alterations of the signs and store fronts to be a crime. He says the real crime is putting apostrophes in the wrong places to begin with.

It's not a new obsession — he's been at it for 13 years.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Grave Diggers & Body Washers – Great Women In Death History | The Order of the Good Death

orderofthegooddeath.com

As Women's History Month comes to a close, we are launching a new series on the unsung female heroes of death. We start the series today by featuring several death heroes our executive director Sarah Chavez found right in her own backyard.

In 1887, it seemed as though one funeral procession passed by the Orton house each day. Inside, all seven Orton children had come down with diphtheria. The DuBrutz family in the next town over had already lost five of their children to the epidemic, believed to have been caused by miasma – the terrible stench that emanated from the thousands of dead cattle and sheep covering the plains after the rains came that year. The pioneer families of Central California were dying so fast people resorted to taking apart their barns to provide wood to build coffins for their loved ones.



Julius and Lucretia Orton

Windows were boarded up and people shut themselves away within their homes for fear of contracting 'the plague.' Neighbors dared not help one another, fearing contact with others would cost them their lives, leaving people isolated and alone in their grief to carry out the tasks of preparing and caring for their dead.

Only one woman in the county dared to enter their homes to lay out and bury the children when they died – Katherine Burns. Armed with a medicine that was *"so powerful it would eat holes in clothes on which it dropped"* (Ina Stiner, *Early Family Histories*), a washing tub to bathe in, and an extra set of clean clothing for herself, Burns took on the death work no one else would.

I first uncovered the story of Katherine Burns when I was hired on to be the



The first cemetery in Lindsay

curator of a small, Central California farming town's first historical museum. Then I was asked to write the first book dedicated to their local history. I didn't expect to find much beyond infighting among farmers and maybe some interesting agricultural innovations. I

certainly didn't expect to find much in terms of women's contributions.

I was wrong.

The contributions of women in the community were ample, and impressively death oriented.

In the newly forming town of Lindsay, the small population of just a few hundred was rapidly diminishing during the epidemic. A local farmer offered to donate land to create the first communal cemetery in the area, however, no one volunteered to claim the deed, and with it the responsibility for the town's deceased. In the end, it was a 20-year-old woman, Miss Kincaid, who took possession of the land and established the first cemetery. She did the grounds keeping, record keeping and even dug the graves.



In the 1930s Lindsay's Orange Blossom Queen, Charlotte Bequette, was the daughter of a wealthy rancher and considered "the Belle of Lindsay." What they didn't know was that her grandmother was once known as "the Belle of the Donner Party." She was Mary Graves, a surviving member of the ill-fated Donner Party – you know, the pioneers that got snowbound and turned to cannibalism? Yes, *that* Donner party.

Shortly after Graves' rescue she married Edward Gant Pyle and they moved to San Jose, California where she became the first female teacher there. However, their joy was short-lived when Pyle went out one day and never returned home. His body was found, almost a year later – he had been murdered. Pyle's killer was captured and imprisoned. While the murderer awaited execution, Graves stayed at the jail, tended his wounds, cooked his food and kept watch over him – all of this to ensure he survived long enough for her to watch him hang.



Julius and Lucretia Orton The first cemetery in Lindsay Mary Graves

Discovering these stories of women largely forgotten by the communities they served, engaging in various aspects of death work or confronting their mortality in my own backyard prompted me to wonder how many other stories there were? So, for the past two years I have been uncovering extraordinary stories of women who have done the same:

The first female undertaker in the U.S. who was active in the Underground Railroad.

The Empress Consort who had her corpse laid out to decompose on a busy street to teach others the value of contemplating one's own

mortality.

The librarian who spent her lifetime identifying thousands of immigrants who perished as a result of a natural disaster, while exposing the men trying to hide those deaths to make a profit.

Over the next several months, I look forward to sharing their stories, alongside many others, in a new series here at The Order – *Great Women in Death History*.

**Sarah Chavez** is the executive director of The Order of the Good Death and co-founder of Death & the Maiden, a project that endeavors to explore the historical and cultural roles women have played in relation to death. She also has a blog, *Nourishing Death*, which examines the relationship between food and death in rituals, culture, religion and society. You can follow her on Twitter .



Posted March 28, 2017 by caitlin & filed under Blog.

## About the Order

The Order of the Good Death is a group of funeral industry professionals, academics, and artists exploring ways to prepare a death phobic culture for their inevitable mortality.

Copyright © 2017 Caitlin Doughty, The Order of the Good Death.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## The Greatest Baroque Composer Never Known

Article #297 • written by Jennifer Noonan

damninteresting.com

<https://www.damninteresting.com/the-greatest-baroque-composer-never-known/>

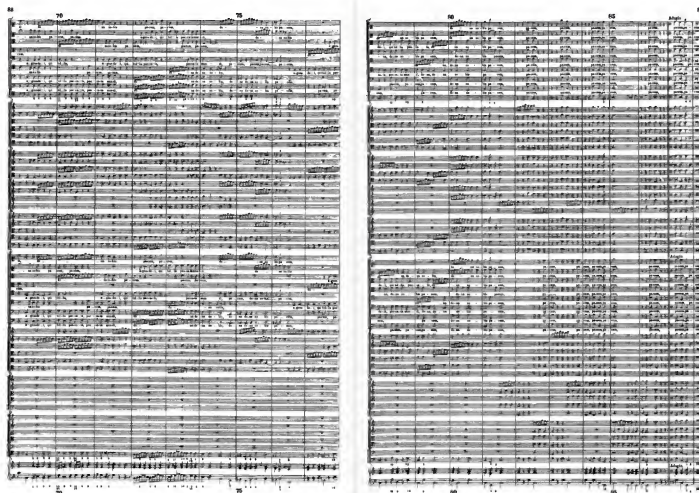
As a choirmaster in 1870s Salzburg, Innocenz Achleitner often saw sheet music treated in a less-than-reverent manner. It might be scattered across a composer's desk, crammed into vocalists' folios, or even marred with personal notes about bowings or breath marks. Never before, however, had he seen it wrapped around vegetables.

Only about 80% of men at the time were literate enough to sign their own name, so it's possible Achleitner's greengrocer didn't recognize what the marks on his packing material meant, especially since each page stretched roughly 80 centimeters tall and resembled something more like newsprint rather than a standard sheet of music. The choirmaster knew better, of course, and quickly convinced his grocer to hand them over.

Thus, by a coincidence of his shopping schedule, Achleitner happened to rescue the *Missa Salisburgensis*, or Salzburg Mass, known today to be the largest surviving composition from the Baroque era. It would come to be recognized as one of the most important historical works of music, and it would certainly cement its composer's place as a master at the forefront of the era...if experts could figure out who wrote it.

→

Now that it was safely in his hands, Achleitner could see that the work's expanse was perhaps the least impressive thing about it. The score called for no fewer than 53 parts divided into 7 ensembles. It made heavy use of antiphony, a form of "call and response" between competing sections of the orchestra, and frequently regrouped instruments to create impromptu trios and duets within the larger melodic themes, like eddies in a river. Such complex layering would have been impressively forward-thinking even in Achleitner's day, and these yellowed pages were clearly much older than that.



A more modern reproduction of a section of the found music (1903)

questionable if music even *is* music, and many ancient works sit relatively unknown in museums around the world—the symphonic equivalent of a tree falling in the forest—waiting for someone to invest in the cost of publication.

Such was the fate of the *Salisburgensis* for another 100 years, until a young Ph.D. named Ernst Hintermaier stepped in—not to honor Orazio Benevoli, but to prove the Mozarteum wrong.

The *Missa Salisburgensis* first came to Hintermaier's attention in 1969, when it was published for the first time as part of a collection of Benevoli's works. Tucked in among the historical notes was the Mozarteum archivists' assertion that the original mass was an 'autograph'—that is, written in the composer's own hand. As a musicologist whose doctoral research had focused on the Salzburg court, Hintermaier did not especially know the oeuvre of an Italian such as Benevoli, but he was intimately familiar with the manuscript libraries in Salzburg

Achleitner carefully delivered the manuscript to the scholars at the Cathedral Music Association and Mozarteum. This institution, often referred to as simply 'the Mozarteum', had been established only a few decades earlier by the widow of the famous Wolfgang, in order to preserve the ancient musical history of Salzburg. It boasted some of the most skilled musical archivists in the region, and they confirmed that this was a never-before-seen piece, which they believed to have been written in 1628 by the Italian composer Orazio Benevoli.

Unfortunately, the *Salisburgensis* then quickly sank back into obscurity even after having been lost for two centuries and narrowly escaping a permanent vegetative state. Without performance, it's

—so familiar, in fact, that he had come to recognize the handwriting of the various composers and scribes whose work was held there, and he knew the *Salisburgensis* was definitely *not* written in Benevoli's hand.

Instead, the handwriting resembled the work of a man identified only as "Copyist no. III," a scribe who was responsible for many other works in the Salzburg archives. Placed side by side, the match was undeniable. This did not yet call the mass's provenance into question, since the music may still have flowed from Benevoli's mind, if not his pen. But Copyist no. III had been professionally active in Salzburg only during the last third of the 17th century, about 50 years after the mass was supposed to have been written. It was still possible, albeit by a slim margin of years, that an elderly Benevoli had hired the copyist to transcribe the *Salisburgensis* immediately before his death. At the very least, the Mozarteum had missed the origin date by half a century.

The handwriting's implications did not stop there. A second, unattributed mass named the *Missa Bruxellensis* had recently been discovered in the Royal Library in Belgium, and it contained the same ordered layout and penmanship as the *Missa Salisburgensis*. Based on the assumption that the *Salisburgensis* was in Benevoli's writing, the academic world had accepted that the somewhat smaller *Bruxellensis* was his as well. The pieces certainly matched stylistically, with the *Bruxellensis* again employing antiphony and regrouping, and generally possessing an instrumentation so complex that a modern scientist might compare it to a fractal. Even with the latest revelations about Copyist no. III, it seemed indisputable that the two masses had been composed by the same person, regardless of whether composer and transcriber had been a matched pair instead of a single individual.

Hintermaier went on to examine the *Bruxellensis*. This time, he didn't focus on who had put pen to paper, but rather the paper itself. Like branded cattle on a farm, paper mills at the time used watermarks to identify the location and owner of the mill where the paper was produced. Though the *Bruxellensis* had somehow made its way to Belgium, both masses were printed on paper from the Lengfelden mill near Salzburg. The watermark was a stylized "wild man" escutcheon wearing a loin cloth and helmet, which had been in use from about 1650 to 1800.



An approximation of the watermarks

Closer inspection revealed that the *Salisburgensis* bore the initials F.W. for Franz Wörz, in charge of the mill from 1666 to 1696, while the *Bruxellensis* watermark read I.W. to indicate Ioseph (Joseph) Wörz—the son of Franz—who ran things from 1696 to 1702. Thus, while the *Salisburgensis* could have been written as early as 1666 — still in the last few years of Benevoli's life — the *Bruxellensis* was undeniably from 1696 or later, almost a quarter of a century after his death. If the same person composed both masses, as everyone agreed, then Benevoli didn't compose either of them. They had been orphaned once again.

With the help of the watermarks, the date range had been firmly established, and the Mozarteum's attribution successfully refuted on all accounts. Hintermaier's greatest challenge now lay in proving the true authorship of these remarkable pieces. Despite the *Bruxellensis*' sojourn into Brussels, it seemed most likely that the composer had lived and worked in Salzburg. Both the paper mill and the copyist resided there, and had been utilized by the mystery composer over the course of several decades. More generally speaking, the city had been a musical nexus for centuries—home to 18th century greats like Mozart and Haydn, but also modern ones like Christian Doppler and Herbert von Karajan—and there were only so many places in Europe where a piece as large as the *Salisburgensis* could have amassed enough musicians and singers to perform it at all. After careful analysis of the composers in the area during the time the masses were printed, only two candidates emerged—either Andreas Hofer, or his protégé Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber.

Both of these men worked for the Prince Archbishop Maximilian Gandolph in the Salzburg court in the latter half of the 17th century. Hofer was made *kapellmeister*, or director of music, in 1666, and he took an immediate liking to Biber when the younger violinist arrived at court a few years later. Biber was promoted to vice-



*kapellmeister* in 1679, and the two worked even more closely together until Hofer's death five years later. Both were composing music during the years of the *Salisburgensis* and the *Bruxellensis*, both were in a professional position to stage them for performance, and both had the talent—theoretically—to create works of such magnitude.

Hintermaier laid out the evidence for each:

Nothing of Hofer's was ever lost, whereas it seemed nearly everything Biber ever created was lost for some length of time. A total of nine compositions survive by Hofer, with no contemporary documents (such as library catalogs) indicating the titles of other works that may have been misplaced or destroyed. By comparison Biber was exceedingly prolific, with 145 separate pieces surviving today, both large and small, with evidence of roughly 100 additional lost works. Oddly enough, the simple fact that the *Salisburgensis* and the *Bruxellensis* had been lost in the first place was a slight mark in Biber's favor.

Despite the limited number, all of Hofer's works were large-scale, and two were masses like the ones Hintermaier was attempting to attribute. Biber's compositions, on the other hand, ranged practically everywhere, from sonatas and ensembles to cantatas and requiems. But among his large-scale pieces there were no fewer than eight masses, and many of them relied heavily on antiphony and ensemble regrouping—just as the two unlabeled masses did.

The men's careers matched their respective bodies of work: Hofer's career was minimalist and straightforward, while Biber's read on the grand, winding scale of a classic underdog genius.

Biber had been serving as musician and personal valet to a bishop in the Moravian town of Kroměříž when, at the age of 26, his master sent him on a trip across the country to buy instruments from a particular violin-maker. The merchant waited for young Biber to arrive, but he never did. Instead, Biber repurposed his traveling funds to go to Salzburg, where he managed to secure a personal audition with the Prince Archbishop. His Holiness was probably unaware of Biber's recent abandonment of his post, but given the obvious talent before him, it's possible that he hired Biber in spite of it.



An example of deliberate mis-tuning (note crossed strings). Source: Wikipedia

Biber's ability to innovate showed itself immediately. Within his first few years in Salzburg, he dedicated a collection of sonatas to his employer that would eventually become one of his most famous works—after, of course, it became lost for hundreds of years, and was rediscovered and published in 1905. Meant to symbolize the 15 so-called 'mysteries of the rosary,' the *Mystery Sonatas* feature a technique called *scordatura*, which calls for a deliberate mis-tuning of the strings in order to play chords that would otherwise be difficult-to-impossible on a given instrument. This creates a cognitive dissonance for the trained musician, as the fingers play one note but the ear hears another.

Of all the musical inventions during the Baroque era, *scordatura* was perhaps the most revolutionary, and yet Biber was not content to merely keep pace with his contemporaries. He demanded a different tuning for each individual sonata, and in the climactic piece known as *The Resurrection* (sonata 11), he even required two of the

violin's strings to be crossed above the fingerboard and below the bridge, placing the higher-pitched string below the lower. Modern-day performances, when they are attempted, are usually accomplished by laying out over a dozen pre-tuned violins to be used in quick succession.

It was also during his early years in Salzburg that Biber composed his famed *Battalia*, in which he once again pushed the boundaries of not only what instruments could play, but how they could be played at all. Biber instructed his musicians to beat the strings with the wooden backs of their bows to evoke gunfire, weave paper among the strings to make a bass sound like a snare drum, and play popular folk songs off key and on top of each other to simulate a crowd of drunkenly singing soldiers. Far beyond what could be called Baroque, these techniques are more usually associated with modernist composers of the 20th century. His *Sonata Representativa* attempted to imitate the sounds of animals, while his *Sonata Sancti Polycarpi* was written for

eight trumpets plus one timpani — all at a time when simply allowing an orchestra to play without singers was considered so revolutionary that it could be described as Baroque instead of Renaissance on that basis alone.

Biber's mentor Hofer, on the other hand, played a supporting role at best within the Baroque movement. His masses, while large enough to be in the same league as the *Salisburgensis* and *Bruxellensis*, were otherwise standard compositions for the era.

It was Biber who routinely strained conventions to their limits, and it seemed apparent that the skill and stylistic brashness needed to pull off a piece as complex as the *Missa Salisburgensis* were his as well.

Hintermaier ultimately left the door open for others to judge, but subsequent scholars have all agreed that both it and the *Bruxellensis* were composed by Biber, while simultaneously acknowledging for the first time his many musical innovations. It may have taken hundreds of years to rediscover each one's existence, but often the original inspiration came decades or even centuries before the men generally credited for the idea.



Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber. Source: Wikipedia

Biber wrote his *Passacaglia* for solo violin 44 years before Bach's famous solo violin sonatas, and created the sounds of war with Bartók pizzicato (that is, plucking the string so hard it snaps back against the instrument) nearly 250 years before it was named after Bartók. The 18th century musicologist Charles Burney called Biber's work the most "difficult and most fanciful" of any Baroque composer, while Paul Hindemith wrote in the early 1900s that Biber was second only to Bach.

Even the violin-maker whom Biber had snubbed in his youth described him later as "the superb virtuoso Herr Biber," and the bishop of Kroměříž seems to have forgiven him almost immediately for seeking greater fortune. It probably helped that Biber never forgot his humble origins. Much of his work in Salzburg was dedicated to his former master, and sent back to Kroměříž to be preserved in the archives there. As for how so many of his works in Salzburg became lost, or how the *Missa Salisburgensis* ended up in a grocer's scrap pile, no one knows, but Kroměříž seems to be the chief location where Biber's works were *not* lost after his death.

Sitting quietly among these protected pieces is also the earliest extant opera ever composed in Salzburg, and the only opera of Biber's that survives, though he is believed to have written many. For one of the Baroque era's finest composers, who had waited so long to receive due recognition, its title seems oddly prophetic: *Chi la Dura la Vince*, or "Those Who Endure Will Win."

written by Jennifer Noonan, copyright © 07 March 2017. Jennifer is the author of "No Map to This Country." She lives in Austin with her husband, four children, and their pet tarantula, and can be found online at [jenniferisacommonname.com](http://jenniferisacommonname.com). Podcast sound design by Alan Bellows. Podcast narration by Jennifer Noonan. Edited by C.H. Hung.

You can always link to our content, but if you wish to repurpose this copyrighted text or audio, you must obtain permission.

## Related Content

Absolute Zero is OK The Supernatural Bunnymother of Surrey Musical Torment

13 COMMENTS

Byerlyfactor

Posted 07 March 2017 at 08:20 am

First! Neat.

iGmO

Posted 07 March 2017 at 08:32 am

First. That is an incredible story! DI!

Me-me

Posted 07 March 2017 at 08:41 am

First!?!

Albert

Posted 07 March 2017 at 01:44 pm

My teenage daughter has known for years that Bieber is a great composer

Myra

Posted 07 March 2017 at 02:31 pm

Battalia on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTpl\\_\\_FCceU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTpl__FCceU)

AD

Posted 08 March 2017 at 01:55 am

How fortunate that this one was saved, but how tragic to imagine all the other prodigious works that were likely relegated to the literal dustbins of history.

Daigu

Posted 08 March 2017 at 05:24 am

What a excellent podcast. The amazing facts and musical elements of the Baroque era seems endless, is like we are still living a golden age for this majestic music.

Daigu

Posted 08 March 2017 at 05:28 am

The Biber' Passacaglia is a very intimate piece of music, I personally play it over and over on my device trying to let the magical notes to sink deep in my heart and soul.

Tina

Posted 08 March 2017 at 01:58 pm

I just found this sight. I get so tired of all the mindless dribble on the internet especially when I'm looking for a distraction from all the mindless dribble at my job. One day I typed "I need something interesting to read!" into Google and this came up. I must say I find the articles much more satisfying than the usual internet fodder and well written enough for the name to be considered accurate. I just wanted to say thanks for that and I hope to enjoy many more articles here in the future. (I can see that the writers and commenters here are not just interesting but educated too. For that reason, I will purposely write my comments with a few slyly placed grammatical or spelling errors in them just to see if you can spot them – not because I'm a bad writer. Just FYI)

Ard Ri

Posted 09 March 2017 at 11:55 am

9th!

Ard Ri

Posted 09 March 2017 at 11:58 am

Technically 10th and 11th.

Gurn Blanston

Posted 10 March 2017 at 06:12 pm

Wonderful essay, I have been a Biber fan for years, ever since I first discovered, serendipitously, the Rosary Sonatas. It is nice to see A> an essay by anyone on music history, and B> an essay on Biber in particular. Well done.



Aussie

Posted 12 March 2017 at 08:05 pm

Thank you Jennifer for a great article. Thanks to this I'm currently listening to Missa Salisburgensis and I'm really impressed. I'm already planning to listen to the other works by Biber you mentioned.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Grey 'blob' takes seat in Ukraine parliament - BBC News



By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

24 February 2017



Image copyrightBorislav Bereza

A Ukrainian MP has brought a stuffed toy into parliament in a stunt intended to shame colleagues who don't show up for work.

Independent MP Borislav Bereza arrived with the grey blob-shaped toy on Friday morning and propped it up on a vacant seat. It's a mini copy of the sculpture Homunculus Loxodontus by Dutch artist Margriet van Breevoort, which symbolises

*There was no shortage of spare seats for Mr Bereza and his companion*

the experience of patients waiting to see a doctor. The sculpture became an internet meme in Russia and Ukraine, where it's referred to as Pocheckun, meaning "the one who waits".

Mr Bereza says in a Facebook post that while 322 MPs were registered as being in the chamber for a plenary session, no more than 150 of them were physically present. "But Pocheckun is here in the hall," he writes. "Like a majority of Ukrainians, he is waiting for MPs to start attending and working. He does not lack time or patience. Unlike Ukraine."

The toy also took a turn behind the podium, prompting other MPs to snap photos.

Ukrainians commenting online are divided over the stunt. "It seems to be funny, but it is rather sad," says one Facebook user, while another thinks it's "disgusting" given the conflict in Donbass and an economy "in intensive care". One wonders what Pocheckun is made of, and receives the response: "Made of our hopes and dreams".

Ukraine's parliament has long had a reputation for MPs getting colleagues to vote on their behalf using their personal electronic voting cards - so-called "piano voting". It's also notorious for the unruly behaviour of representatives, with numerous instances of MPs coming to blows.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## The Grey Lady of Astley Hospital

lancashirefolk.com

Lancashire folklore, legends, ghosts, local history  
Posted on February 9, 2017 by LancashireFolk



KONICA MINOLTA DIGITAL CAMERA

The building known as Astley Hospital, on Ley Road in Astley, is in fact an ancient manor house; the inscription on the lintel informs us that it was erected in 1650, by the Mort family. It was built on the site of an earlier hall and was originally called Dam House, after the nearby dam which powered a corn mill. In 1893 the building became a hospital and when the hospital closed in 1994, a Heritage Trust was formed to preserve the building for use as a community centre.

The gardens surrounding the community centre are open to the public. They are also haunted by a Grey Lady; Anne Mort, of Dam House. Anne's family was rich, influential and Catholic, so her father was outraged when he discovered that Anne had become romantically involved with James Speakman, a young labourer who lived with

his family in an untidy cottage nearby. James was clearly not a suitable match for Anne and her father forbade the pair to meet, but nothing he said could turn the young lovers away from each other. They continued to meet in secret, walking the paths that crossed the moss around Dam House, until Anne's father decided he must take more drastic action. He went to James' father and arranged to move the whole family to another of his estates, in Lymm, well away from Dam House. James was not informed until the last minute and when Anne went to find out why she had not heard from him, she found the cottage empty.

Anne never forgave her father and never forgot her love for James; she walked to his old home every day and wandered the paths they had walked together, gradually losing her mind. She died of her grief when she was only eighteen.

Now, Anne Mort is more commonly known as the Grey Lady, who walks in the grounds of Astley Hospital and the many paths and lanes nearby. She has been seen near the canal, around the old Leigh Grammar School and crossing Marsland Green. Those who have seen her – including a selection of burly workmen – say that she glides along, casting her eyes from side to side as if searching for someone. We know, of course, that the one she seeks is James Speakman, her true love.

**Image © Copyright Julian Graham and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.**

Lancashire folklore, legends, ghosts, local history - author of 'Lancashire Folk' published by Schiffer Publishing Winter 2015 - 9780764349836 £17.50. 'Manchester Folk', covering Greater Manchester, coming in 2017!

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## 'Grinch' flicks cigarette on Dr. Seuss float, setting it on fire on way to Christmas parade

wtvr.com

Posted 11:23 pm, December 1, 2016, by Tribune Media Wire

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – A real-life Grinch set fire to Whoville, burning down the Dr. Seuss-themed float before it could reach the Huntsville Christmas Parade in Alabama Thursday.

Jeananne Jackson, the creator of the group behind the float, told WHNT someone flicked a cigarette from another car while they were driving on South Memorial Parkway. Jackson said her husband was driving the truck with the float and she was in another vehicle and saw everything happen.

The cigarette butt landed in several hay bales and the elaborate creation quickly caught fire — three months of hard work up in flames. Jackson said they spent \$1,000 in materials for the mobile Whoville replica, built for the Dr. Seuss-themed parade.

The Huntsville Fire Department responded to put out the fire, but most of the structure had burned. Luckily, they were able to save some of the dogs, pigs and other creatures wearing custom-made Thing costumes and wigs.

The float was created by the Facebook group for Lost and Found Pets of Huntsville/Madison County. It helps reunite missing pets with their owners — they have nearly 13,000 members and 5,000 success stories.

The group was trying to win the \$300 prize for best float, so they could use that money to pay for more pets to be spayed and neutered.

The group scrambled to get another trailer brought to the parade site, so they could put the items they saved onto it. Group members also dressed in costume, trying to make the best of a bad start.

For more information on the group, visit their Facebook page.

Online Public File • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy

- 3301 W Broad Street Richmond VA 23230
- Copyright © 2017, WTVR
- A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Guam Catholic Church sees a "perfect storm" of controversy

yahoo.com

**AP** FILE - In this November, 2014 file photo, Archbishop Anthony Apuron stands in front of the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Hagatna, Guam. The Catholic Church on Guam has been devastated by allegations that its longtime archbishop sexually abused altar boys. But even before the scandal broke, Guam's church was torn over another divisive issue, the presence of a controversial lay movement on the island \_ that became so toxic that a community of nuns fled for the mainland U.S. in despair. (AP Photo/Grace Garces Bordallo, File)

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — The Catholic Church on the Pacific island of Guam has been devastated by allegations that its longtime archbishop sexually abused altar boys. But even before the scandal broke, Guam's church was divided over another issue — the presence of a controversial European lay movement that became so toxic that a community of nuns fled to the mainland U.S. in despair.

The battle on the tiny tropical U.S. territory pits the Neocatechumenal Way lay group against critics on a majority Catholic island that was colonized by Spanish missionaries in the 17th century. The Way was founded in the 1960s in Madrid and is best known for sending families out on missions to evangelize in places where Catholics are either a minority or have fallen away from the church.

For years, locals on Guam have complained that the Way represented a new missionary movement trying to introduce an unusual version of Catholicism to their church, which is the most influential institution on the island. The Way's practices include celebrating Mass on Saturday night in special communities of 30-40 people seated around a table, rather than facing an altar in a church open to all.

Guam's critics aren't alone. Bishops in Japan, the Philippines and elsewhere have sought to limit the Way's activity in their territories, complaining of sectarian and culturally insensitive practices.

But the Way had a strong supporter in Guam Archbishop Anthony Apuron, who encouraged the group's growth on the island and even turned his new seminary over to the Way to run.

That coddling came to an abrupt halt when Pope Francis suspended Apuron last June after a handful of men came forward to accuse him of having sexually abused them decades ago when he was a Guam parish priest. Apuron has denied the accusations and can't be criminally charged because too much time has passed. The Way hasn't been implicated.

Francis named an interim archbishop, Michael Byrnes, to lead the archdiocese until Apuron's fate within the church is decided by a Vatican court.

Responding to the criticism, Byrnes on March 15 placed restrictions on the Way, mandating a yearlong "pause" in the creation of new prayer communities on Guam, ordering that its members obey Vatican rules in celebrating Mass and launching a review into the quality of their training as Catholic teachers.

"The sooner we have unity and universal adherence as an archdiocese to the norms established by the church ... the sooner we shall be on the path to reconciling with one another," Byrnes said.

It was the latest case of a bishop cracking down on the Way, which has won praise in Vatican circles for its missionary zeal, but criticism in the field for sometimes being a divisive presence.

In Guam, where 80 percent of its 159,000 residents are Catholic, the Way has attracted about 800 followers. Globally, it is said to have upward of 1 million.

What makes the group controversial is its liturgy, in which the faithful often receive Communion sitting down. The laity also offer personal "resonances" about Scriptural readings that critics say can detract from the priest's homily.

Despite its detractors, the Way enjoyed the blessing of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. The Vatican approved its statutes and some of its peculiar liturgy in 2008, but did order the Way to more closely adhere to universal liturgical norms.

Pope Francis has praised the Way's missionary spirit, but he has insisted they pursue "humble and obedient unity" with local churches, said Massimo Faggioli, a Villanova University professor of historical theology.

Faggioli said the situation in Guam represented "a perfect storm" of problems that underscores just how divisive movements like the Neocatechumenals can be. The Guam church is coping with a sex scandal, financial problems and grassroots criticism of the Way.

"Francis hasn't singled out one movement as a bad example, but he has always told them you have to create unity, you cannot create a sub-church or a parallel church," Faggioli said.

In Guam, which is closer to the Philippines than Hawaii, more tradition-minded faithful rebelled at Apuron's embrace of the Way, which included naming Way priests to parishes where beloved pastors had served for years.

Many people simply stopped contributing. The Agana Cathedral-Basilica was placed in receivership last week, drowning under \$2 million in debt thanks in part to a drop-off in donations.

Way supporters point to its strong spirituality and enthusiasm in reawakening the faith in Catholics.

"We are a small reality on this island willing to reach out for the poor, for those who are out of the church," said Dr. David Atienza, the lead catechist for the Way in Guam. He said the group would comply with Byrnes' letter.

The Rev. Allan Figueroa Deck, a Jesuit professor of pastoral theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, said that despite some detractors, the Way is a new church reality.

"The positive thing to say is that it represents one among many movements in the church that is offering a way to be Catholic and a way to be Christian that is more demanding, that is deeper, that is more engaged, than what you find in many everyday Catholics," he said.

Opponents of the Way formed a group — the "Concerned Catholics of Guam" — and last year took out full-page newspaper ads urging victims of priestly sexual abuse to come forward. The campaign resulted in Apuron's accusers going public and a law lifting the statute of limitations on abuse claims. For more than 35 Sundays, protesters have picketed outside the cathedral, demanding that Apuron be defrocked.

"Concerned Catholics of Guam" was also decisive in pushing for an investigation into the archdiocesan seminary, which Apuron opened in 1999 and moved to an 18-acre property thanks to a \$2 million anonymous donation.



A Vatican-backed inquiry into the seminary found that the property's control had effectively been transferred to the Way's administrators without Vatican approval. Byrnes transferred ownership back to the archdiocese. The review also found deficiencies in the curriculum.

The seminary controversy came to a head when the Carmelite order of religious sisters revealed it had provided the \$2 million donation, but said the money had been intended for an archdiocesan seminary to train diocesan priests, not a Neocatechumenal Way seminary to train missionaries.

In a remarkable press conference in November, Carmelite Mother Superior Dawn Marie came out of her cloister and announced that her small community of nuns had left the island after a 50-year presence because of the "toxic environment" created by the controversy.

The Vatican's administrator running the archdiocese, Archbishop Savio Hon Tai Fai, apologized for how the donor's intent had been "twisted by some people" and thanked the sisters for their long service.

Apuron, who remains off the island as his canonical trial continues, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. In November, he welcomed Byrnes' appointment, saying: "During this time of difficulty for Guam, in which so many hurtful things have been said, I have remained on retreat while working with the authorities in the Vatican to establish my innocence."

---

Winfield reported from Rome.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## The 'Guinness Castle' in Ireland is on the market

By Darla Guillen

Published 11:10 am, Tuesday, March 7, 2017

seattlepi.com

<http://www.chron.com/homes/article/The-Guinness-Castle-in-Ireland-is-on-the-market-10983216.php>



Here's one high-roller way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day: Snatch up the castle that beer bought.

The historic "Guinness Beer Castle" -- dubbed that because Guinness Beer heiress was once gifted the home. The formal title of the estate is actually "Luggala," and dates back to 1787. Ernest Guinness bought the property, located just outside of Dublin, in 1937 and gave it to his daughter, Oonagh.

It sits on 5,000 acres of land and includes roughly 19,099 square feet of living space.

"With its low-lying crenellated roofline, the whitewashed structure makes a striking statement against the dark-wooded backdrop. Leaning toward Gothic style, it is awash with little battlements, crochets, trefoil and quatrefoil windows and ogee mantelpieces throughout," Real Estate Deals reports. "Structures on the property include the main house with seven bedrooms, dining room, large entrance hall, three main reception rooms and library, a four-bedroom guest house and another 17 bedrooms between seven lodges and cottages within the estate."

In Robert O'Byrne's book, "Luggala Days: The Story of a Guinness House," it's described as "the most decorative honey pot in Ireland. The text also offers salacious details of the parties thrown at the property.

The price tag on this impressive parcel? About 28 million euros, or about \$29.5 million.

David Ashmore and Nick Crawford have the listing.

The famous East Hampton estate, immortalized in a documentary about the Kennedy relatives who once owned it, is being offered for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Hearst Newspapers © Copyright 2017 Hearst Seattle Media, LLC

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Hamilton auction to bring in lots of Benjamins

wtvr.com

NEW YORK — If Hamilton fans can't get enough of their favorite Broadway musical, they now can bid to own a personal letter and manuscripts of the Caribbean-born, French- and Scottish-heritaged founding father Alexander Hamilton.

The letter and hundreds of other documents from Hamilton's desk will have collectors clamoring Wednesday at Sotheby's auction house in New York Wednesday.

Hamilton's descendants dusted off the family collection passed down since the 18th century for the auction.

Beyond discussions of large vs. small government, of the value of immigrants, of isolationism vs. internationalism, Hamilton also wrote about love for his wife and son.

"Every hour in the day I feel a severe pang on this account and half my nights are sleepless—Come my charmer and relieve me. Bring my darling boy to my bosom. Adieu Heaven bless you & speedily restore you to yr. fond husband," he wrote circa 1783.

The family archive also includes a lock of Hamilton's hair estimated to cash in at \$25,000.

### The Broadway show has helped

Sotheby's expects the Hamilton collection to rake in inflated sales thanks to Lin-Manuel Miranda's famed Broadway depiction of Hamilton's life.

The 11 Tony-award winning "Hamilton" revitalized the celebrity of the "young, scrappy and hungry" founding father, inspired by Ron Chernow's best-selling biography published back in 2004.

"There's no denying the Broadway show has exponentially increased interest in this period of American history and particularly in Alexander Hamilton," Sotheby's International Senior Specialist for Books & Manuscripts Selby Kiffer told CNN.

"What is so unusual about this is it's a cohesive integral whole that's survived since the 18th century. The pieces interrelate and inform each other. It's rare to have correspondence back and forth," Kiffer added.

Ham-fans have flocked to Sotheby's for a week-long archive exhibition leading up to auction day.

"Visitors could point to a document and say, 'Oh there's a song about that.' I think that shows how closely the show follows history," Kiffer said.

The interest in the archive is "undeniable," Kiffer said. The only question is how much are people willing to pay to own a piece of history.

A previously unrecorded draft of the famed 'Pacificus' essay, in which Hamilton debates James Madison about America's neutrality in foreign tensions, is estimated to go for upwards of \$500,000.

Kiffer anticipates that the commissioning document appointing Hamilton to be General George Washington's aide-de-camp will actually peak sales.



The appointment is said to be a pivotal moment in Hamilton's life, ultimately leading to his influential role in American history.

Kiffer expects a packed room for the auction, with more than just the typical historical document collectors and institutions at the Wednesday afternoon auction.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 'Hamilton' tickets used as lure in massive Ponzi scheme

wtvr.com

NEW YORK — A ticket selling scam featuring the Broadway hit “Hamilton” — where resold tickets can go for thousands of dollars — bilked investors out of tens of millions of dollars, a federal complaint charged Friday.

New Yorkers Joseph Meli and Matthew Harriton were charged with running a Ponzi scheme that targeted people eager to profit off resold tickets to “Hamilton,” Adele concerts and other popular events.

According to a complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the pair have raised \$81 million from 125 investors across 13 states. They’ve allegedly diverted \$51 million of those funds toward personal purchases — including jewelry, school and camp tuition.

The complaint states that the suspects started luring investors in January 2015. Meli and Harriton told investors they would pool their money to buy tickets to popular shows in bulk, and then resell those tickets at a higher price, the complaint states. Investors were promised that they would get 10% annualized profit within one year of the investment. They also were promised half of future profits from the sales.

They claimed to have an agreement with the producer of “Hamilton” to buy 35,000 tickets. The SEC says that none of Meli and Harriton’s entities had formal agreements with “Hamilton,” and that those tickets were never bought.

“Meli and Harriton raised millions from investors by promising big profits from reselling tickets to A-list events,” said the SEC’s Boston Regional Office director Paul G. Levenson in a statement. “In reality they were moving investor money in a circle and creating a mirage of profitability.”

Meli and a third man, Steven Simmons, were charged in a separate case accusing them of a Ponzi scheme involving a hedge fund. The charges from the U.S. attorney’s office include wire fraud, securities fraud and conspiracy.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## This haunted Italian castle could be yours for €600k

thelocal.it



*The 15th century castle near Turin is on the market for €600,000. Photo: Immobiliare.it*

The Local

4 August 2016

11:41 CEST+02:00

A medieval castle, "complete with ghost and hidden treasure", is up for sale in Italy and will set you back half the price of a four-bedroom home London.

The 15th century castle is located in the town of Arignano, near Turin, and is on the market for €600,000 in its current state or €1.2 million if purchased fully restored.

bedroom terrace in Brixton, London.

"Although structurally sound, the building is in need of restoration," states the property listing.

Whoever buys the castle will get 700m<sup>2</sup> of living space, spread over three floors, each with seven-metre-high ceilings.

The property also boasts a rooftop terrace, a cellar, a medieval courtyard, defensive perimeter walls and a large garden.

At the centre of the property is a "massive, dominating and suggestive" 23-metre high turret which towers over the medieval town of Arignano below.

There is also a generous slice of intrigue for potential buyers.



Photo: Immobiliare.it

"Unchanged since the times of warring knights, dances and banquets, legend has it the building also contains a ghost and hidden treasure," the advert states.

Numerous witnesses claim to have seen a mysterious ghostly figure floating around the ancient castle and its gardens, while the hidden

treasure is thought to lie in secret tunnels underneath the structure.

Photo: Immobiliare.it





Beneath the cellar, a 20km tunnel is rumoured to lead directly to the alchemists' caves underneath the Royal Palace of Turin.

The tunnel was supposedly used by the royal alchemists of the Turin court, who spent much of the 1700s attempting to discover the philosopher's stone. However, until now the tunnel's entrance has never been located.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Haunting faces of inmates from asylum which created the word 'Bedlam'

metro.co.uk

Fiona Parker for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 5 Apr 2017 11:33 am



Unidentified female patient diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dog Media)

These haunting portraits shed light on the patients of Britain's most notorious psychiatric hospital, Bedlam.

Bethlem Royal Hospital, better known as Bedlam, was the first mental health institution to be set up in Europe.

And since its founding in 1247, it has been the topic of numerous horror books and films.

Photographer Henry Heiring took these portraits of patients in the 19th century to see if their faces could show evidence of their illnesses.

Eliza, a young woman, can be seen smiling contently while looking off camera.



Eliza Griffin, admitted in 1855 and diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dog Media)



Eliza Camplin, admitted in 1857 and diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dog Media)



An unknown asylum patient (Picture: News Dog Media)

While she appears happy at first glance, Eliza was actually suffering

from acute mania.

Hannah Still, who was admitted in 1858, is pictured holding a china doll.

She was sent to the asylum after being diagnosed with chronic mania and delusions.

The hospital was nicknamed 'Bedlam' due to the chaos which took place inside it.

The original building was built on top of a sewer, which often overflowed.



Eliza Camplin, admitted in 1857 and diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dog Media)



Esther Hannah Still, admitted in 1858 and diagnosed with chronic mania and delusions (Picture: News Dog Media)



John Bailey and his son Thomas, both admitted in 1858 with acute

melancholia (Picture: News Dog Media)



An unknown patient (Picture: News Dog Media)

This meant patients often had to trudge through human waste.

But it was Bedlam's disturbing treatments which gave the institution its notoriety.

One of the treatments was invented by Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles Darwin.

Darwin's 'rotational therapy' involved suspending a patient on a chair and spinning them round for hours.

starved and beaten.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, patients were dunked in cold baths,



William Thomas Green, admitted in 1857 and diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dig Media)

Fanny Barrett, admitted in 1858 and diagnosed with intermittent mania (Picture: News Dog Media)

An unknown patient (Picture: News Dog Media)

Sarah Gardner, 26, a domestic servant, was admitted with 'great mental depression'. (Picture: News Dog Media)

A Quaker philanthropist Edward Wakefield visited Bethlem in 1814 and described naked, starved men chained to walls.

Another of the photographer's sinister images features an artist, Richard Dadd.





Richard, pictured while painting, was admitted to Bethlem after killing his father, who he believed to be the Devil.

Wealthy patrons would pay a shilling to gawp at the unfortunate people locked in the asylum.

And while there were some seriously disturbed people at Bethlem, there were women who could find themselves labelled insane for a range of conditions.



Famed artist Richard Dadd, pictured whilst painting, killed his own father (Picture: News Dog Media)



Harriet Jordan, admitted in 1858 and diagnosed with acute mania (Picture: News Dog Media)



Eliza Josolyne, admitted in 1856 and diagnosed with acute melancholia (Picture: News Dog Media)

These included

postnatal depression, alcoholism and senile dementia.

You could even be locked up in the asylum for social transgressions such as infidelity, known as 'moral insanity'.

Fortunately, while Bethlem Royal Hospital still treats mental illness today, it is a very different hospital to what it used to be.

## Haunting image of ghostly little girl standing in a corridor

By Marc Walker 13:12, 14 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### The picture of the pint-sized spectre has been dismissed by council chiefs but opposition politicians are demanding a probe into the spooky apparition

A haunting image of what appears to be a little girl stalking the corridors of a town hall has sparked a political row in Spain.

The spooky footage - shot on a council worker's mobile phone in Vegas del Genil, Granada - shows a pint-sized ghostly lass in a long dress seemingly staring into the camera.

It appears to have been taken late at night but the figure clearly stands out beside what seems to be a water cooler and a cabinet.

Bosses at the local authority have dismissed the 'spectre' as a trick of the light but opposition politicians in the holiday hotspot popular with British tourists are demanding an investigation, reports [antena3.com](#).



City hall chiefs refused to look into the alleged apparition but were forced to respond to journalists' questions after it appeared in local media reports.

Now the picture is the talk of the town and rival councillors have 'asked for an explanation' from local government leaders.

But Mayor Leandro Martín hit back: "He (the council worker) sent us the photo and told us that he had a strange vision.

"The truth is that we all take it as a joke."

In 2010, an image emerged of a mystery little girl at a town hall in Wem, Shropshire, as the building was engulfed by fire.

The ghost-like figure in the picture is seen standing behind a rail surrounded by flames in the spine-tingling photograph.

It was snapped 15 years earlier by a local sewage farm worker who was among a crowd watching the 90-year-old construction burn down.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Headless body found in Snake River in E. Washington state

q13fox.com

ASOTIN, Wash. — An eastern Washington state sheriff says a decomposed body with no head found in the Snake River will be sent to Seattle.

Asotin County Sheriff John Hilderbrand tells the Lewiston Tribune, that the body found last week is possibly a male. The person's identity and cause of death are unknown.

The body was found Tuesday near Chief Timothy Park west of Clarkston.

Authorities found a pair of men's size-9 tennis shoes on the feet, and the denim jeans on the body were size 36 with a 30-inch inseam.

The sheriff's office says it has contacted other law enforcement agencies in the region to see if there are any missing person cases.

[Online Public File](#) • [Terms of Service](#) • [Privacy Policy](#)

- 1813 Westlake Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98109
- Copyright © 2017, KCPQ
- A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



# The Guttridge Files: Heirs of Tolpuddle | Dorset Life - The Dorset Magazine

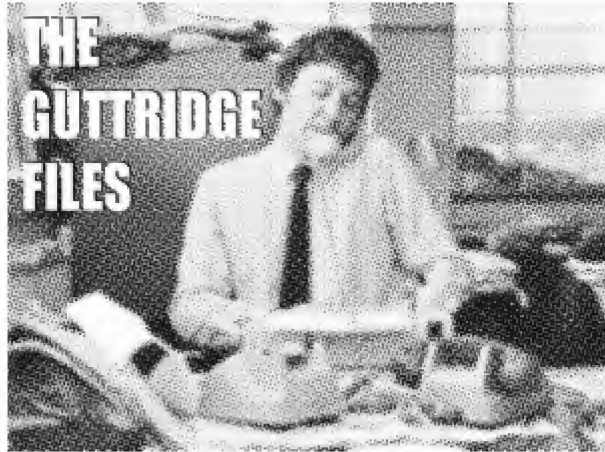
[dorsetlife.co.uk](http://dorsetlife.co.uk)

The best of Dorset in words and pictures

## The Guttridge Files: Heirs of Tolpuddle

Roger delves once again into his archives

Published in February '17



*tgfsmallerdots*

This rare and historic picture provides an unusual photographic glimpse of the agricultural turmoil and pioneering trade unionism that played such a big part in Dorset's nineteenth century history. It was taken in April 1874 at Milborne St Andrew, just a few miles from Tolpuddle, whose Martyrs were famously transported to Australia in 1834 for swearing an oath of loyalty. The picture shows about 100 villagers – men, women and children – gathered to watch the 'evictions of agricultural labourers, members of the union', from their tied cottages. Milborne St Andrew was home to the first Dorset branch of the Agricultural Workers' Union, formed two years earlier, and its members were striking for more

money. Contemporary newspaper reports tell of families at Milborne St Andrew being 'forcibly ejected' in 1874 and 'their goods and chattels put into the road'. 'As there is a general strike of labourers in the village there was a good muster of men, women and children, attracted thither by the "novel and interesting" spectacle,' reported the Wimborne-based Dorset Free Press.

An eyewitness said: 'I never saw such a scene in all the days of my life. There was the farmer and his two sons carrying out the poor people's goods into the ditch by the road – two families with lots of little children, one a baby very ill in the cradle. Two more families are to be ejected tomorrow, and eight of the squire's tenants have received notice to quit from his agents.'

In a scene reminiscent of the annual Tolpuddle march, another report describes a procession through the village, led by a band. Men, women and children carried flags and banners and the strikers themselves wore blue ribbons and rosettes in their hats. A closer look at the photograph reveals three musicians in the centre, one with a fiddle, another holding an accordion, a third carrying a drum or tambourine. At least two men appear to be drawing attention to the ribbons on their jackets.

The strikers were demanding a wage increase above their current 12 shillings (60p) a week. One sympathiser described the treatment by their employer, Mr Fowler, as 'brutal'. 'Unfortunately, a very large portion of the cottages of Dorsetshire are held by the labourers as part and parcel of their wages,' he added. 'The occupants therefore can be ejected at almost a moment's notice, without the trouble of going through any legal process.'

The evicted labourers included Alfred Martin, whose great-great grandson Graham Baldwin and his wife Bridget were living in Southbourne in the 1990s and told me more about Graham's ancestor.

'I think Alfred was one of those that stirred them all up to strike for higher wages,' said Bridget, who



VILLAGERS WATCHING EVICTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS,  
MEMBERS OF THE UNION,  
at Milborne St. Andrew, Dorsetshire, April, 1874.  
217EdGuttridgeFilesStrike

had researched the background. 'After being evicted, he went to Yorkshire with his 21-year-old daughter Charlotte and his son George, who was two years younger. Later they went on to Bolton, Lancashire, where according to one of his grand-daughters he became manager of a slate works.' Charlotte Martin eventually left Lancashire in 1879 and went to London to marry James Cox Stroud, whom she had known at Milborne St Andrew. 'He was born in the Weymouth Workhouse, taught himself to read and write and joined the Metropolitan Police,' Bridget told me. 'He ended up conducting the police band. He and Charlotte had six children, all of whom lived to a great age.'

### Amphibious cure

Medical science has come a long way since the days when patients came from far and wide to visit the so-called 'toad doctor' of Pulham. Every May around 1830-40 a great gathering took place in the North Dorset village, its exact date determined by the phases of the moon. It was known as Buckland's Fair, Buckland being the name of the toad doctor.

'The doctor, dressed in white, was assisted by his three daughters, also dressed in white, and they attended to his patients who came from far and near,' records the Women's Institute book *Dorset Up Along and Down Along*, published in 1935. 'His method was certainly unusual, for he kept toads which he used alive, hanging them under his patients' clothes. As long as the toads twitched and moved, the cure progressed! As to what happened if the toad died before the cure was complete, the story does not relate.'

---

© 2003–2017. Dorset Life Magazine. Privacy policy | Terms & conditions

All rights reserved. All trademarks acknowledged. Website designed by Fudgie Design.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Hiroshima app shows tourists pre-bomb sights - BBC News

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

•

6 February 2017



Image copyrightAFP/Getty Images

A new app will show tourists in Hiroshima how the city looked before it was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War Two.

The app will take users on "peace trail" to some of the city's landmarks, revealing what stood at each site before and after the US dropped the "Little Boy" bomb in 1945, The Mainichi newspaper

reports. It's due to be available by 6 August, when Hiroshima will mark the 72nd anniversary of the bombing.

The municipal government is investing 9.5m yen (\$85,000; £68,000) to develop the app and improve wifi along the route as part of its "peace tourism" drive, the report says. An official tells the paper that the city government wants people to "deeply learn the realities of the damage caused by the atomic bombing", and it's keen to encourage tourists to stay longer than the day trip that many make.

The city of Nagasaki, bombed three days after Hiroshima, is also using technology to educate people about the devastation wrought by the atomic bomb. Last year, a virtual reality project allowed primary school children to experience what the city was like in the aftermath of the "Fat Man" device exploding over the city, complete with the sounds of stepping on rubble and wind blowing through the ruins.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

*Image copyright Wikimedia*



## Historic hotel that inspired Thomas Hardy saved from financial ruin

[dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk)

**Historic hotel that provided the inspiration for one of author Thomas Hardy's most famous novels has been saved from financial ruin and is to be restored to its former glory**

- **Grade II listed former coaching inn The King's Arms in Dorchester is to be restored to its former glory**
- **The building was opened in 1720 and rose to fame after being used as a setting in a Thomas Hardy novel**
- **It featured in the 1886 book The Mayor of Casterbridge and was described in great detail by the author**
- **Building has been bought by Stay Original Company which runs a number of historic hotels in west England**

By Joseph Curtis For Mailonline

A historic hotel that provided the inspiration for one of author Thomas Hardy's most famous novels has been saved from financial ruin and is to be restored to its former glory.

The Kings Arms in Dorchester, Dorset, featured prominently in Hardy's 1886 novel The Mayor of Casterbridge, a tale of a drunken man who sells his wife and daughter and is then reunited with them years later when he is a mayor.

The central character, Michael Henchard, carried out his official business at the Georgian hotel and Hardy went into great detail in his description of the iconic building.

It was bought by Stay Original Company, which owns and runs a a number of historic boutique hotels in the West Country.



Eighteenth Century hotel The King's Arms in Dorchester has been saved from ruin by the Stay Original Company, a firm that runs historic inns, which has pledged to restore it to its former glory

The Grade II listed former coaching inn, which opened in 1720 and previously hosted Queen Victoria and King George IV, was closed last year after the company that owned it went into receivership.

The firm plans to return and restore many of its 18th Century original features to show what it was like in Hardy's day.

- £180,000-a-week Man City ace Raheem Sterling forced to take... Elderly couple burn own house down after showing... New drone owners are warned to read the rules on flying the...

Local council planners have approved the plans, much to the delight of the Hardy Society, which has been consulted through the process.

A spokesman for Stay Original Company, said: 'The design concept aims to re-establish the Kings Arms as the best and most widely used venue in Dorchester.

The hotel, right, was described in great detail in the 1886 novel The Mayor of Casterbridge, written by Thomas Hardy, left

'The works therefore concentrate on reinstating many of the significant features of the 18th century coaching inn that have been lost under a series of low value "makeovers" by previous owners.



'The building remains a key landmark in the town and its present condition represents a waste of a tremendous asset.'

Mike Nixon, secretary of the Thomas Hardy Society, said they were delighted the hotel will re-open.

He said: 'It's frankly massively important.

'This is an iconic building and all Thomas Hardy fans are so pleased that the people who are actually doing the refurbishment have consulted us and are doing a very sensitive refurbishment that will ensure going forward it still is a very iconic building.



Hardy had a fondness for Dorchester, with his home Max Gate, pictured, also found in the Dorset town

'They have taken on board what it was like in Thomas Hardy's day so everything that was around in his time will be redone and remade in the style of the Victorian surroundings Hardy would have known.'

Hardy was famous for creating fictional place names for towns and villages in Victorian Wessex and Dorchester was known as Casterbridge.

But the King's Arms kept its name in the novel which charts the rise and downfall of Michael Henchard, who swears an oath he will not drink alcohol for 21 years after selling his wife and daughter to a sailor.

After the sailor's death 18 years later, the wife and daughter arrive in Casterbridge to seek out Henchard, who by now is the respectable mayor.

But his secret past catches up with him, he becomes bankrupt and starts drinking again before dying.

The comments below have not been moderated.

Marielle, The Nearest to Paris, France, about 12 hours ago

Such an inspiring article.....I just bought Thomas Hardy's novel !

OldMan46, Boston, United States, about 16 hours ago

Pity there are no photos of the interior or drawings of remodel. Another incomplete story by the amateurs at DM.

liz in LA, altadena, United States, about 23 hours ago

I know Europeans come to California looking for older buildings but have to remind them having earth quakes makes buildings like these impossible to keep up. Just so beautiful.

Nell, London, a day ago

"But is secret past catches up with him, he becomes bankrupt and starts drinking again before dying." If only I'd had the fortune to stumble on this article before my English Literature A Level - I wouldn't have had to read the book.

Beachcomber, Cumbria, United Kingdom, a day ago

The phrase you were searching for DM is 'In the future' NOT 'Going forward' ... Please stop it.

Torpenhow, London, a day ago

What an inspiring piece of news.

Truedad, Stockport, United Kingdom, a day ago

Hardy, one of our greatest authors.

pm2, RichSafeFairEU, United Kingdom, a day ago

The interior could do with a makeover. It is a bit rickety, and not in a charming way.

Between2worlds, world, United States, a day ago

Didn't Most Haunted go there? Glad they are keeping it and restoring it..

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Hitler painting on show for first time at Italy museum - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

•  
10 March 2017



Image copyright Museo della Follia

An oil painting by Adolf Hitler is to go on display for the first time at a museum in northern Italy.

The small untitled work has been lent by a German private collector to the Museum of Salo, on the shores of Lake Garda, for an exhibition called the "Museum of Madness", Corriere della Sera reports. It shows two men, one at a table, with a dark corridor extending behind them.

The exhibition's curator sees little artistic merit in the undated painting. "It's a piece of crap," says curator

Vittorio Sgarbi. "It's a painting by a hopeless man, it could have been done by Kafka, it says a lot about his psyche: here you do not see greatness, you see misery."

Hitler famously applied to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts in the 1900s but was rejected twice. Despite being considered a mediocre artist, his work has fetched considerable sums at auction in recent years.

Alongside Hitler's work will be pieces by world-renowned artists including Francisco Goya and Francis Bacon. The exhibition also has photographs, sculptures and multimedia installations, all exploring the theme of insanity through art history.

The exhibition opens on Saturday and its setting is fitting, as Salo was the de facto capital of Benito Mussolini's Nazi-backed puppet state, the Republic of Salo, between 1943 and 1945.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Nuclear submarine plans found in suitcase donated to charity shop

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.uk Sunday 5 Mar 2017 5:35 pm



Stella Parker with plans for HMS Trafalgar  
(Picture: Daily Post Wales)

**Charity shop workers were stunned after they found nuclear submarine plans in a donated suitcase.**

The Barnardo's staff, in Porthmadog, Gwynedd, Wales, discovered documents for the HMS Trafalgar, which became notorious after it accidentally ran aground on the Isle of Skye in 2002.

'When I found it I just thought, wow, this is amazing,' said manager Stella Parker.

'I can only imagine perhaps the family of someone who had passed away donated the suitcase, that is what often happens. Perhaps they did not know the plan was there.

'We are all very excited here about it and we've certainly never seen anything like it before.'



Royal Navy nuclear attack submarine HMS Trafalgar (Picture: Brian Burnell)

The drawings, which were 6ft (1.8m) long, were found in the suitcase's lining.

After taking it to be inspected on David Dickinson's Real Deal TV show, Parker discovered the documents were probably made to orientate new crew members.

Barnardo's shop in Porthmadog (Picture: Google)

The store manager couldn't resist making a cold war inspired joke.

She added: 'Someone said that if the phone rang and it was someone with a Russian accent, I should put it down.'

The Royal Navy documents will be auctioned for charity.

HMS Trafalgar was decommissioned in 2009.



/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## 'Hookers' turned gay man straight with 'anointed cake,' Dallas evangelist says | Texas | Dallas News

dallasnews.com

**Update 2:30 p.m.** with Wallnau video response to coverage.

A Dallas evangelist told his followers that an "anointed cake" baked by "hookers" turned a gay man straight.

The evangelist, Lance Wallnau, bills himself as a Christian consultant whose website says he helped get President Donald Trump elected with his book *God's Chaos Candidate*.

Wallnau has made a career out of his pronouncements, which have earned him more than 200,000 Facebook followers.

One of Wallnau's most recent claims came about when he live-streamed a video on Periscope in which he asked viewers for their prayer requests. One person asked for deliverance for her "homosexual" son.

That's when Wallnau launched into a rambling story he said he heard involving baking skills that helped deliver a "gay and very adamantly anti-Christian" bar owner.

"This is crazy," he said. "Now, I'm not saying this is going to work for you. But some hookers in his bar got saved."

First, a regular at the bar supposedly saved the prostitutes. Later, they whipped up a cake, which the reformed prostitutes prayed over.

"It was an anointed cake, and they made the cake and gave the cake as a gift," Wallnau said. "I know this is strange."

The bar owner took a bite and then boom: The power of God hit him, Wallnau said.

Things escalated very quickly from there.

The regular at the bar — who shepherded the domino effect of conversions — allegedly led the bar owner to the Lord and baptized him.

"When he gets baptized, the guy gets delivered and the spirit that was working him got broken off," Wallnau said, insinuating that the bar owner was no longer gay. "I'm telling you, it's a story."

In response to coverage of the cake story, Wallnau posted another video.

"Liberals are crazy," he said. "...[They] will look for any dangling participle of political impropriety and then fasten upon it with a zeal of an anaconda and then begin to squeeze the life out of you."

Last month, he said Trump's win was a "manifestation of an enraged demon through the populace" after the "deliverance of the nation from the spirit of witchcraft in the Oval Office," according to cnsnews.com, a conservative website.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Pigeons sucked into grinder at industrial mill after getting attracted by grain

By Rachel Bishop 11:44, 12 OCT 2016 Updated 12:36, 12 OCT 2016 News

mirror.co.uk

Hungry pigeons were sucked into a grinder at an industrial mill in Russia after getting attracted by the grain.

The winged beasts probably thought they'd found the food jackpot when they came across the grain at the plant in Kazan, in the Russian republic of Tatarstan.

But what they didn't know was they were standing on a death trap.

They dived in and began feasting on the granules completely unaware they are edging towards the grinder.



*Pigeons being sucked into a Russian bread-baking plant*

One-by-one the birds are pulled into the machine - with some desperately trying to fly away.

One lucky pigeon does manage to get to safety as it flies off just before it is engulfed by the cereal.

Despite the horrifying end the feathered animals met, some people found the footage oddly satisfying to watch.

One person wrote: "I could watch this all day." while another wrote: "I find it relaxing"

The footage was sent to Russian website Novosti 24 by a person who sneaked into the mill, according to RT.com.



*Pigeons being sucked into a Russian bread-baking plant*



*Pigeons being sucked into a Russian bread-baking plant*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Houses of Death: Walking the Wards of a Victorian Hospital

thechirurgeonsapprentice.com

## The Chirurgeon's Apprentice

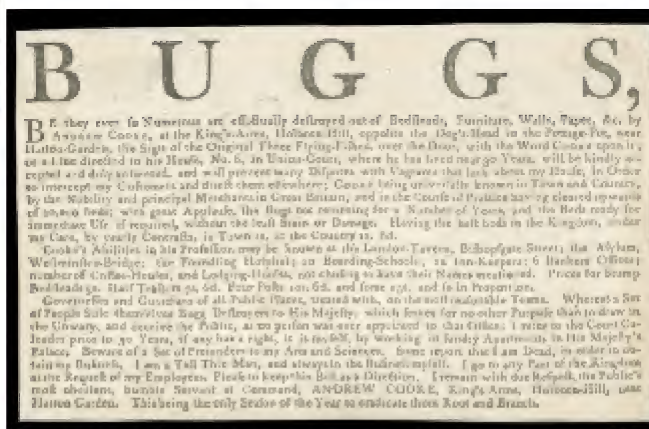
Mar24by The Chirurgeon's Apprentice



9deb7918e7e1d5281d6cfba4eafb711d

The following blog post relates to my forthcoming book **THE BUTCHERING ART**, which you can pre-order [here](#).

Today, we think of the hospital as an exemplar of sanitation. However, during the first half of the nineteenth century, hospitals were anything but hygienic. They were breeding grounds for infection and provided only the most primitive facilities for the sick and dying, many of whom were housed on wards with little ventilation or access to clean water. As a result of this squalor, hospitals became known as “Houses of Death.”



The best that can be said about

L0059152 Trade card for a 'Bug Destroyer' Andrew Cooke, London

Victorian hospitals is that they were a slight improvement over their Georgian predecessors. That's hardly a ringing endorsement when one considers that a hospital's “Chief Bug-Catcher”—whose job it was to rid the mattresses of lice—was paid more than its surgeons in the eighteenth century. In fact, bed bugs were so common that the “Bug Destroyer” Andrew Cooke [see image, left] claimed to have cleared upwards of 20,000 beds of insects during the course of his career.[1]

In spite of token efforts to make them cleaner, most hospitals remained overcrowded, grimy, and poorly managed. The assistant surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital in London was expected to examine over 200 patients in a single day. The sick often languished in filth for long periods before they received medical attention, because most hospitals were disastrously understaffed. In 1825, visitors to St. George's Hospital discovered mushrooms and wriggling maggots thriving in the damp, soiled sheets of a patient with a compound fracture. The afflicted man, believing this to be the norm, had not complained about the conditions, nor had any of his fellow convalescents thought the squalor especially noteworthy.[2]

Worst of all was the fact that a sickening odor permeated every hospital ward. The air was thick with the stench of piss, shit, and vomit. The smell was so offensive that the staff sometimes walked around with handkerchiefs pressed to their noses. Doctors didn't exactly smell like rose beds, either. Berkeley Moynihan—one of the first surgeons in England to use rubber gloves—recalled how he and his colleagues used to throw off their own jackets when entering the operating theater and don ancient frocks that were often stiff with dried blood and pus. They had belonged to retired members of staff and were worn as badges of honor by their proud successors, as were many items of surgical clothing.

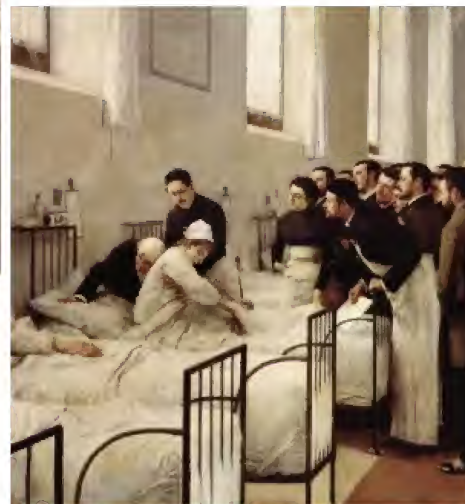
The operating theaters within these hospitals were just as dirty as the surgeons working in them. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, it was safer to have surgery at home than it was in a hospital, where mortality rates were three to five times higher than they were in domestic settings. Those who went under the knife did so as a last resort, and so were usually mortally ill. Very few surgical patients recovered without





llanionmilitaryhospitalmore

incident. Many either died or fought their way back to only partial health. Those unlucky enough to find themselves hospitalized during this period would frequently fall prey to a host of infections, most of which were fatal in a pre-antibiotic era.



In addition to the foul smells, fear

419c2b28d1b137197a21298b24a604c0

permeated the atmosphere of the Victorian hospital. The surgeon John Bell wrote that it was easy to imagine the mental anguish of the hospital patient awaiting surgery. He would hear regularly “the cries of those under operation which he is preparing to undergo,” and see his “fellow-sufferer conveyed to that scene of trial,” only to be “carried back in solemnity and silence to his bed.” Lastly, he was subjected to the sound of their dying groans as they suffered the final throes of what was almost certainly their end.[3]

As horrible as these hospitals were, it was not easy gaining entry to one. Throughout the nineteenth century, almost all the hospitals in London except the Royal Free controlled inpatient admission through a system of ticketing. One could obtain a ticket from one of the hospital’s “subscribers,” who had paid an annual fee in exchange for the right to recommend patients to the hospital and vote in elections of medical staff. Securing a ticket required tireless soliciting on the part of potential patients, who might spend days waiting and calling on the servants of subscribers and begging their way into the hospital. Some hospitals only admitted patients who brought with them money to cover their almost inevitable burial. Others, like St. Thomas’ in London, charged double if the person in question was deemed “foul” by the admissions officer.[4]



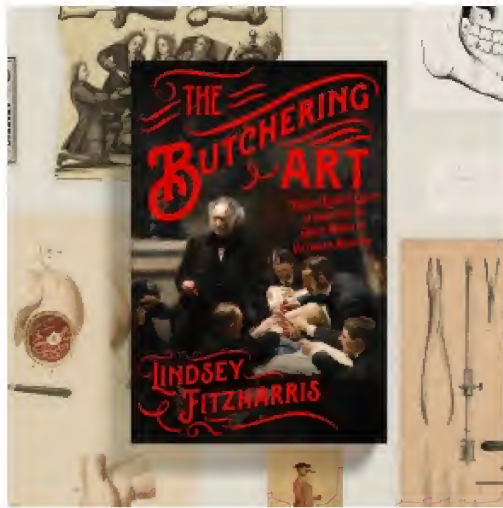
27

Before germs and antisepsis were fully understood, remedies for hospital squalor were hard to come by. The obstetrician James Y. Simpson suggested an almost-fatalistic approach to the problem. If cross-contamination could not be controlled, he argued, then hospitals should be periodically destroyed and built anew. Another surgeon voiced a similar view. “Once a hospital has become incurably pyemia-stricken, it is impossible to disinfect it by any known hygienic means, as it would to disinfect an old cheese of the maggots which have been generated in it,” he wrote. There was only one solution: the wholesale “demolition of the infected fabric.”[5]

It wasn’t until a young surgeon named Joseph Lister developed the concept of antisepsis in the 1860s that

hospitals became places of healing rather than places of death.

To read more about 19th-century hospitals and Joseph Lister’s antiseptic revolution, pre-order my book *THE BUTCHERING ART* by clicking [here](#). Pre-orders are incredibly helpful to new authors . Info on how to order



fitzharris\_butcheringart\_021417

foreign editions coming soon. Your support is greatly appreciated.

1. Adrian Teal, *The Gin Lane Gazette* (London: Unbound, 2014).
2. F. B. Smith, *The People's Health 1830-1910* (London: Croom Helm, 1979), 262.
3. John Bell, *The Principles of Surgery*, Vol. III (1808), 293.
4. Elisabeth Bennion, *Antique Medical Instruments* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), 13.
5. John Eric Erichsen, *On Hospitalism and the Causes of Death after Operations* (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1874), 98.

This entry was posted in Casebooks and tagged Dr Lindsey Fitzharris, history, history of medicine, history of science, hospitals, joseph lister, lindsey fitzharris, med student, medicine, old operating theater, Surgery, *The Butchering Art*, the surgeon's apprentice, *The Knick*,

victorian, victorian medicine, victorian science, white coat.

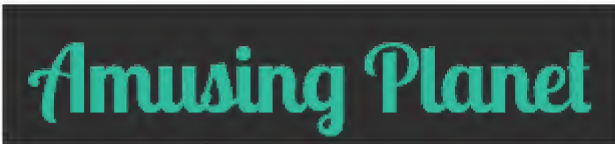
---

```
/* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. */
.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }
.en-markup-crop-options div
div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }
```



## How The Military Hid The Lockheed Burbank Aircraft Plant

amusingplanet.com



Kaushik Thursday, December 23, 2010

During World War II, in an effort to disguise the facility and ward off enemy fire, officials at Burbank's Lockheed Air Terminal (now known as Bob Hope Airport ) took the unusual but highly effective step of covering the entire airport with strategically placed camouflage netting. Up from the air, in the eyes of the enemy, the entire area looked like a rural subdivision.

Before



before



after

In

February 1942, a Japanese submarine was spotted just outside San Francisco Bay. When another Japanese submarine surfaced off Santa Barbara, a few nights later, and fired a few shells at an oil storage facility the War Department ordered Lt Gen John L De Witt, head of Western Defense Command, to protect vital installations along the Pacific Coast.

The job of disguising California fell upon Colonel John F Ohmer, a pioneer in camouflage, deception and misdirection techniques. During the Battle of Britain in 1940, Colonel Ohmer's carefully made and positioned camouflage caused the Luftwaffe to waste thousands of tons of bombs on empty fields.

With help of scenic designers, painters, art directors, landscape artists, animators, carpenters, lighting experts and prop men from movie studios in Hollywood, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Disney Studios, 20th Century Fox, Paramount, Universal Pictures and others, Colonel Ohmer began the task of disguising March Field and its neighborhood.

Ohmer concealed key factories and assembly plants that may be targets, including Douglas Aircraft. In a short period of time the entire area of the factory was camouflaged. The Lockheed-Vega aircraft plant in Burbank was fully hidden beneath a complete suburb replete with rubber automobiles and peaceful rural neighborhood scenes painted on canvas. Small farm complete with animals, a barn, a silo and other buildings were erected. Pastoral settings used frames of lumber and large spreads of canvas.

Hundreds of fake trees and shrubs were positioned to give the entire area a 3-dimensional appearance. The trees and shrubs were created from chicken wire treated with adhesive, then





2



3

covered with chicken feathers for leaves, then painted various shades of green (with spots of brown, even). Air ducts were disguised as fire hydrants.

In other sections, scattered decoy aircraft made of canvas scraps, ration boxes, and burlap on chicken wire as well as flattened tin cans dominated the landscape. None of these aircraft looked real up close but looked great from a distance. Fake runways were made by burning grassy strips.



4



5

Maintaining the illusion of a neighbourhood required signs of life and activity. Workers emerged to relocate automobiles, and took walks on hidden catwalks. Some took washing down from fake clotheslines only to replace it later at scheduled times. Parked automobiles were moved to indicate drivers were using their cars daily and returning home from work.

Ohmer's "suburb" brought requests for other camouflage projects. In Seattle, Boeing Aircraft covered nearly 26 acres. It became covered by a complete town with municipal buildings, a park, schools and homes.

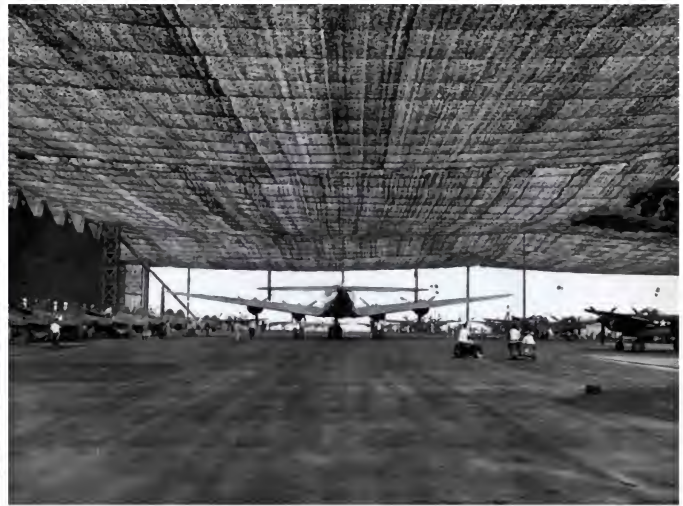
The disguise of California ceased to be critical when the US Navy dealt a smashing defeat to a Japanese carrier task force at Midway Island. The threat of a serious attack against the West Coast diminished, then vanished.

## 6 comments:

1.



6



7

Anonymous July 1, 2012 at 8:18 AM

I enjoyed this very much. I worked in Burbank in the '60s, and lived in Burbank in the '70s.

2.

Anonymous July 23, 2012 at 8:45 AM

This was amazing. I had never heard of this.

3.

Anonymous February 16, 2013 at 4:12 PM

I worked in Boeing, Plant Two in the 1980's

and saw the pictures of what had been done on the roofs of the aircraft assembly buildings. Fake streets, houses and cars. I was impressed, even 40 years later.



8



9



10

4.

Michael Higby March 27, 2014 at 10:25 AM

Another part of the story is that Warner Brothers Studios, just up the road, was dressed up look like the Lockheed Factory.

5.

Anonymous March 22, 2015 at 5:13 AM





1

looked like back then though!

As a small child my Dad took me to an air show at Lockheed, right after the war. Leaving the show, he pointed out a tower that looked like a Dutch windmill, on San Fernando Rd. next to Lockheed. He told me that the top would open and that there was an antiaircraft gun inside. He worked nearby for Food Machinery Co., during the war, designing and building amphibious landing craft (Water Buffalo) Anyone know anything about these "windmills"?

6.

Anonymous June 10, 2016 at 11:35 PM

My office is on that site now. It's cool to see what it

[Privacy Policy](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact](#)

Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Nike dropped them after Heaven's Gate suicides, but you can still find the Decade sneaker on eBay 20 years later

newsweek.com

What's the proper dress code for a mass suicide? Obviously, the occasion calls for some level of formality, but one doesn't want to overdress. It's a death ritual, not a fashion show.

Twenty years ago, the Heaven's Gate UFO cult chose health goth. Considering the current athleisure trend, it was a remarkably fashion-forward choice. When the bodies of 39 members were found in a suburban mansion in San Diego, they were wearing matching outfits: heads shaved, bodies covered in purple shrouds, black shirts and sweatpants, patches reading "Heaven's Gate Away Team" and black-and-white Nike Decade sneakers.



Occasionally, the Decade will show up on eBay. They're expensive. One recent listing—no doubt pegged to the anniversary of the suicides—features an unworn pair (size 12) recovered from a storage locker in Arizona, listed at \$6,660. Inflated, no doubt, because of the rarity of the shoe and the absurd circumstances with which it became associated.

Their bodies were discovered by former member Rio DiAngelo, formerly Richard Ford. A few days after their deaths, he received a FedEx package in the mail with a VHS tape and a letter explaining, "By the

time you read this, we will have exited our vehicles." DiAngelo enlisted his boss to drive him to their headquarters. As DiAngelo went inside, he put cologne on his shirt collar to mask the thick smell of rot, like a Euro tourist at a Meatpacking District nightclub in Manhattan.

They weren't *really* dead, at least not according to cult doctrine. They had merely left their "vehicles" and traveled to the Next Level, or "The Evolutionary Level Above Human," escaping a soon-to-be "recycled" Earth. Journeying to TELAH was the long-term goal of the cult, which started in the '70s, and in 1997 they finally had their chance. Behind the approaching Hale-Bopp comet, their leader Marshall Herff Applewhite (aka Do) claimed, was a spaceship that would take their souls. All they had to do was hitchhike by suicide.



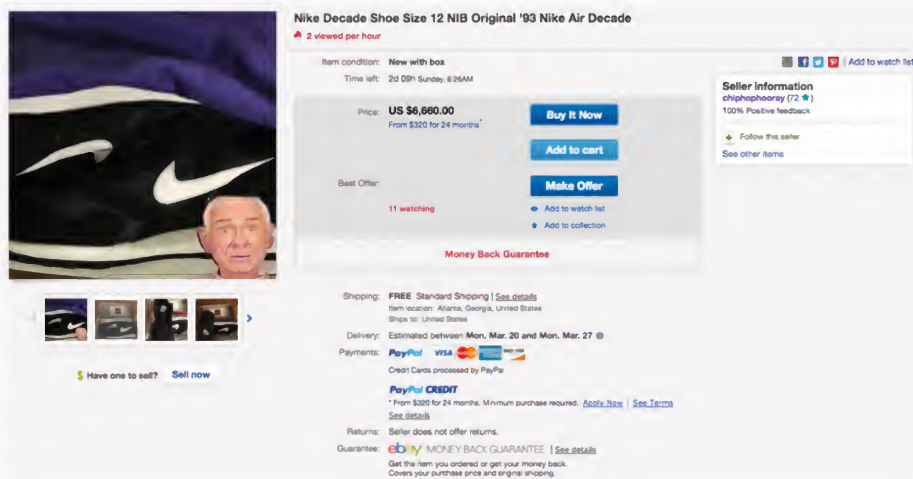
As the comet approached perihelion with Earth in late March, they started prepping. They purchased supplies. Members took bucket-list trips to see *Star Wars*, Cirque du Soleil and SeaWorld. A few days before the end, they taped their suicide messages, then went out for pizza to celebrate, as if they had won a Little League game. They ate their last true meal at a Marie Callender's in Carlsbad. (It closed in 2010, though not for any cult-related stigma: According to one Yelp review, "it smells like URINE!")

Then, starting on March 24, 1997, over the course of three days, members took turns eating pudding and applesauce laced with vodka and a lethal amount of phenobarbital.

Their suicides got a ton of coverage, including a cover story in *Newsweek* and numerous jokes on the late-night

talk show circuit, which generated a thousand hacky variations of Nike's slogan "Just do it." Video footage of the crime scene was used in an *SNL* sketch.

Naturally, this provided some uncomfortable attention for Nike. Most brands would rather not be associated with a cult; they'd much rather *be* the cult. The company didn't respond to our requests for comment. Its only



apparent public acknowledgement of the matter dates back to 1997: “We’ve heard all the jokes,” company representative Jim Small told *Adweek*. “The Heaven’s Gate incident was a tragedy. It had nothing to do with Nike.”

Nike can’t be blamed for the suicides, but the brand *is* forever attached to the tragedy, whether they like it or not. Last year, it was referenced in the Frank Ocean song “Nikes.” The video features Ocean lying on a cot under a purple shroud,

wearing the trademark Nike sneakers. In 2015, a Reddit post went viral and was aggregated by multiple blogs after a user reported meeting the man who sold the cult the shoes. “Oh, is this for a basketball team or something?” the salesman supposedly asked. “Something...like that,” Applewhite allegedly replied.

The post likely was a hoax, as a number of details in it don’t check out. In particular, they call the shoe the Cortez (it was actually the Decade). Additionally, the website Sole Collector confirmed with the two survivors running the Heaven’s Gate email account (seriously, they take questions; try it for yourself: [rep@heavensgate.com](mailto:rep@heavensgate.com)) that the shoes were purchased by two members in bulk at a shoe store—not by Applewhite himself—for \$548.45.

“They turned out to be a look that Do and the Class liked,” the email explained. “They were also able to get a good deal on them. It was a combination of factors that made the sale happen, not because of a particular model or brand.”

So based on the whims of a charismatic-if-unhinged cult leader, Nike had a certain toxic reputation to shake off. It quietly discontinued the Decade after the incident. In 2008, skateboarder Todd Jordan tried to design a signature shoe inspired by Heaven’s Gate. But after he revealed his plans in an interview, Nike promptly canceled the line.

Spending more than \$6,000 on a dusty, cheap pair of sneakers might seem excessive, but if you have the funds, consider buying them. They’ll likely appreciate in value. After all, they’re a cult classic.

© 2017 Newsweek LLC

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Howard Hughes' Palm Springs home goes on the market for \$1.2million

dailymail.co.uk



No wonder he liked to stay in! Sleek Palm Springs home once owned by the reclusive billionaire pilot Howard Hughes goes on the market for \$1.2million

- Three-bedroom home owned by Howard Hughes in Palm Springs, California, is on the market for \$1.2million
- Property oozes 1950s Californian cool with whitewashed walls, spacious balconies and a stunning pool area
- A brightly-coloured cabana, sun loungers and covered patios offer plenty of options for entertaining outside
- House was also owned by screen siren Eva Gabor and a favourite vacation spot of singer Smokey Robinson

By Stephanie Linning for MailOnline

Published: 06:34 EST, 3 March 2017 | Updated: 14:28 EST, 3 March 2017

The swanky Palm Springs home once owned by eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes is on the market for \$1.2million.

With a distinct 1950s feel and stunning outdoor space, the three-bedroom property oozes old-school glamour. It is easy to imagine Hughes, the legendary playboy and daredevil airman, reclining on a sun lounger or sipping a cocktail on one of the spacious balconies overlooking the southern Californian valley and mountains beyond.

The 2,500 sq ft home has been recently renovated but maintains its original mid-century charm. Post and beam ceilings, whitewashed brick and glass walls bring character to the effortlessly stylish home.

The classic period kitchen retains the original pristine oven, cooktop, and vintage tile in a shade of seafoam green that recalls the classic Californian vibe of yesteryear. The property also makes the most of the stunning views with floor-to-ceiling windows and sprawling balconies leading from a number of rooms.

Outside the versatile space offers a number of entertaining possibilities. There are lounging decks and patios on different levels while a pool and smaller spa offer the perfect places to escape the dry desert heat. In one quiet corner of the pool area, a bright canvas cabana is an ideal spot for intimate al fresco dining.

The property, which is overlooked by Bob Hope's house and the iconic Elrod home, was also owned at different times by screen siren Eva Gabor and writer-director-producer Paul Keyes. It was also a popular vacation spot for stars including Smokey Robinson and producer Robert Evans.

**Effortlessly cool:** The three-bedroom property overlooks a large swimming pool which is the perfect place to soak up the sun





**Breathtaking:** The Palm Springs home uses floor-to-ceiling glass windows to make the most of the stunning Californian views

**Modern touch:** The recently-renovated property maintains its 1950s charm with clean whitewash walls and clean lines

**Old-school glamour:** A vintage car parked on the road outside adds to the classic feel of the laid back desert property

**Hollywood pedigree:** The property, pictured, is nestled beneath Bob Hope's home and the iconic Elrod house

**Famous owners:** Eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes, left, and screen siren Eva Gabor, right, both called it home

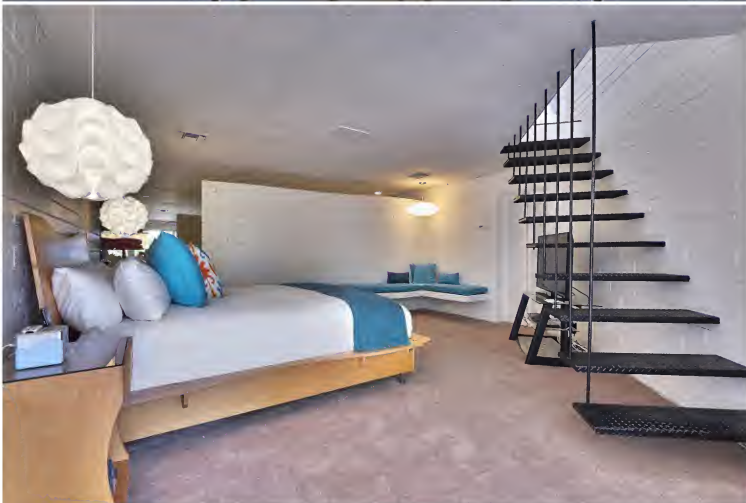
- 'This is filling me with hot, burning rage': Viewers blast A... Ready for a spring clean? VERY clever hacks using a... Inside the lavish world of Cheshire's most glamorous WAG:...

**Spacious:** Simple accessories bring a splash of colour to this sleek open-plan living room, which offers stunning views

**Quiet retreat:** The living room opens out onto this spacious viewing balcony - the perfect place to enjoy an evening cocktail

**Clever design:** Another view of the wrap-around patio shows how it connects the living room, right, and a bedroom, left

**Sleek and simple:** An open design helps keep the flow between this upstairs bedroom and the adjoining bathroom



**Room with a view:** Sliding glass doors separate the bedroom from one of the living spaces, maximising the natural light

**Coffee corner:** This large receiving room is the first space visitors see when they walk into the stunning home

**Bringing the outside in:** Large French doors can be pulled back to open out the entrance room and let in the fresh air



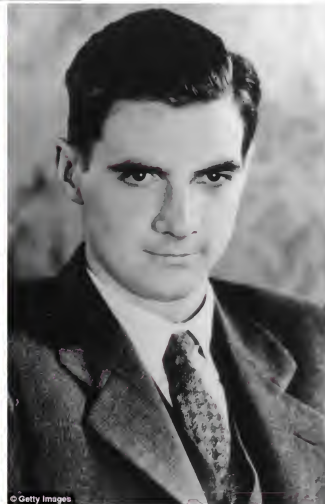


Light and bright: Hanging light fixtures bring a cosy feel to this middle bedroom, which opens out into the home

Tucked away: The downstairs bedroom boasts a wall-mounted seating area that makes the most of the space

Spacious: The downstairs bedroom leads into this enormous bathroom, with a large shower and ample storage space

Classic charm: Another of the three en suite



bathrooms offers a sunken bath and double sink with green counter tops

Family living: A breakfast bar and neatly-designed units make the most of the space in this stylish ground-floor kitchen

Period kitchen: The owners have maintained the original pristine oven, cooktop, and vintage tile in a shade of seafoam green

Escape the heat: The downstairs bedroom opens up on to this covered patio - the perfect place for a morning cup of coffee

Secret spot: Just feet away from the patio there is a hot tub, pictured in foreground, offering the best of California living

Afternoon nap: This large covered hammock offers another option for those looking for some shade

Al fresco dining: The brightly coloured poolside cabana is the perfect place to host intimate meals outside

Oasis: This view taken from the balcony reveals the stunning view over the pool area and the desert and mountains beyond





The comments below have not been moderated.

Ian Gray, Pattaya, United Kingdom, 2 minutes ago

Deserts are alot of things, but stunning isnt one of them.

christy1970, Chiswick, United Kingdom, 29 minutes ago

and you KNOW Howard kept it clean.



Lovetheocean, San Diego, United States, about 2 hours ago

Palm Springs is nice but gets very boring after awhile in all honesty. My mom moved there a year ago and is leaving already. Dreadfully hot for many months too. Beautiful mountains and skies though.

Cuaille71, Phoenix, United States, about 2 hours ago



I love these mid century 'atomic ranch' properties. I don't think this house was meant to be occupied during the summer; when it was built the desert turned into a ghost town at that time.

Vim Fuego, London, United Kingdom, about 3 hours ago

Very cool house. Though why is there a cooking element in the bathroom?

christy1970, Chiswick, United Kingdom, 30 minutes ago

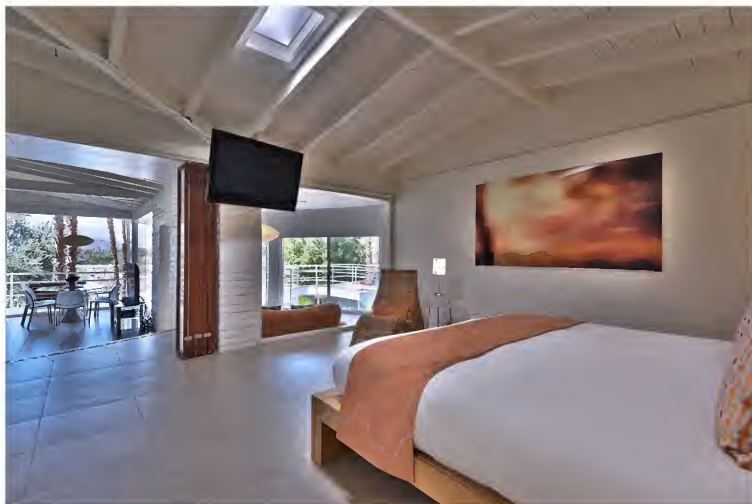
In those days, the people with money had a coffee percolator (stove top) in the bathroom. It was the 50's Hollywood elite version of an infinity pool.

Sneaky, Cleveland, United States, about 3 hours ago

Honestly \$1.2MM is rather cheap for Palm Springs is my understanding, especially a house with history and the hose views.

Hithere555, Philadelphia, United States, about 4 hours ago





That house was not recently renovated. But it is really cool. Love the sunken shower/tub and the one stove top in the other bathroom.

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.















*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Humans Produce So Much Junk, We Are Creating a New Geological Layer

slate.com

The technofossils we leave behind will create a mark on the planet.

By Starre Vartan



You know that consumerism plays a massive role in climate change—all those fossil fuels we have to burn to make and ship our stuff, all those trees cut down to make way for expanding cities and businesses, all that livestock that sates our increasing appetites for burgers and steak. But the environmental impact that all of our material goods have on the planet goes far beyond the greenhouse gases emitted in the process of creating and transporting these things.

In fact, much of it has to do with what we leave behind. It's a manmade phenomenon so massive that Earth scientists suggest it's creating a distinct geological layer upon the Earth made up of technofossils. Most people associate geological layers with eras long gone:

paleontologists digging up fossils of stegosaurus or ancient corals, the stunning layered lines of the Grand Canyon giving testimony to the billions of years of life on Earth. But we're creating our own coating on the planet that will outlast us. Just as dinosaur bones and petrified wood persist, so too will markers of our time, and they increasingly include the nonorganic. Couches, ballpoint pens, garage doors, safety pins, zip drives, plastic water bottles, cars, buildings—almost anything that's not recycled has the potential to fossilize—that is, partially or entirely preserved over time due to burial in the Earth or within layers of other fossils—think landfill. There are almost certainly numerous future technofossils in front of you right now.

More than just creating a geological *mille feuille* of our past, scientists warn that this phenomenon is also making a deep impact on our terrestrial future. And like the Anthropocene—another buzzword popular in the Earth sciences community used to mark a new geological epoch in which human influence became the dominant force on Earth—it represents a profound change.

According to a conservative geological estimate from a team of international researchers led by the University of Leicester, all this stuff weighs 30 trillion tons. That's 110 pounds—the weight of a semi-truck's tire—for every square meter of the earth's surface. The group also calculated that the sheer diversity of the types of technofossils we as a species have made—it already exceeds the number of biotic species living on Earth now, and may even “exceed the total biological diversity through Earth's history.”

The scale of our stuff is so gargantuan that it's also creating *an entire new sphere* alongside the other major systems of our planet. We've long had the hydrosphere (water), atmosphere (air), lithosphere (earth), biosphere (organic life, like plants and animals). Now we have the technosphere (human constructions). Unlike the natural spheres that developed self-regulating systems and balanced interactions over millions of years, the technosphere's geological newness throws off the quite robust balance of our natural systems—that's how powerful it is.

Those who study it worry—among many other things—that the technosphere doesn't function as a mostly closed system as other spheres do. A simple example is the hydrologic cycle: Water vapor evaporates into clouds, which rain down on landscapes, flow into rivers, and back out into the sea. This cycle took eons to develop into the mostly symmetric system we enjoy today. But the technosphere is moving at rates of change measured in decades, not eons, meaning that the complex checks-and-balances evolutionary process hasn't had time to self-regulate. (Earth's early geologic history is full of asymmetric spheres collapsing into chaos as during the Archean Eon; so many volcanoes erupted all at once it sent Earth into a superheated greenhouse state.)

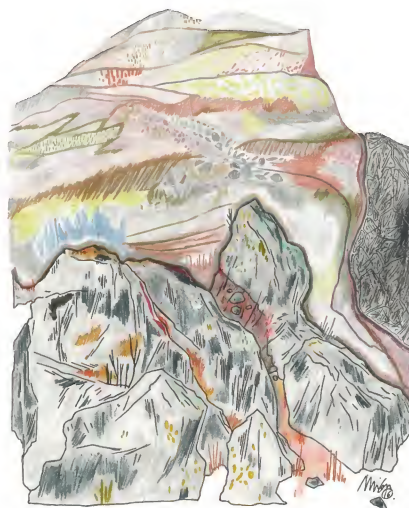


Worst of all, as our growing landfills show, it's remarkably poor at recycling its own materials. In the biosphere, there's little waste—the redwood tree falls after hundreds of years of growth, and becomes a home for small mammals, plants and mushrooms, which all break it down into the soil below; baby redwoods literally grow out of the body of the old tree, a cycle in which life is continuously supported, and no trash is created. Long term, lack of nutrients and energy cycling is a death knell for any natural system, and the technosphere uses vast amounts of finite resources like fossil fuels, precious metals, topsoil, fresh water, and other products of the biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere. It sucks up so many resources that Jan Zalasiewicz, one of the University of Leicester geologists leading a multiyear study of the technosphere, told me that he views it as a rapidly evolving parasite upon our entire planet.

That's not hyperbole: To create our world of stuff, the technosphere is consuming resources the rest of the planet needs to maintain its systems. And just like a tapeworm or malaria protozoans, it doesn't care if it disables or kills its host. To be clear, the waste itself isn't the parasite, it's simply the evidence of it—those technofossils are the carcasses left behind by a parasitic system. A healthy system leaves no waste. If the technosphere continues unchecked, it will ultimately do what all parasites do.

Alas, the cure won't be as simple as getting rid of fleas. The technosphere itself is here to stay. Human success on Earth is tied to the world we have built—our cities, our agriculture, our power supplies, our clothing, our transportation, and our technologies. In short, we've converted part of the Earth into a machine to support humanity. And, as Zalasiewicz told me, "We are part of the technosphere, a component, and we have to keep it going because it keeps us going."

But additional *technofossils*—and the wasteful system they represent—are not necessarily inevitable. We can make the technosphere smarter by nudging it toward a more mutualistic relationship, rather than a parasitic one.



Picture from the article "A Legacy of the Technosphere" by Jan Zalasiewicz for *Technosphere* magazine, HKW, 2016.

Anne-Sophie Milon

Like the natural spheres developed over millions of years on the earth, the technosphere can and will evolve over time. "I look at the technosphere's systems as the next biology," says Peter Haff, professor emeritus of geology and civil and environmental engineering at Duke University, who first coined the term in 2013. Haff is philosophical and thinks in geologic time when considering long-term implications of the technosphere: "It's just the newest thing that Earth is doing. We just happen to be living at this time when there is a change happening." This "emergent structure," like the other spheres, grows and changes to improve its own functionality, not ours—Haff suggests that we should influence the technosphere to behave more the like the other, beneficial spheres while we still can. "For [the technosphere's] own longer term survival, and for ours, recycling is essential," he says.

Especially at these early stages, we can likely mitigate some of its most parasitic effects by reshaping it to better work with its finely tuned, self-regulating spherical peers. To start, we need to push the technosphere to "function in tandem with a biosphere that is stable, rather than one that is rapidly degrading," says Zalasiewicz. That means it needs to be (much) better at reusing resources, by mimicking how the other spheres work—all of which recycle continuously, in a circular process.

The sharing economy actually represents a good model for the technosphere—after all, it reduces resource use (and therefore waste) by getting consumers to rethink their individual ownership of stuff. Likewise, concepts like the circular economy (in which waste is eliminated completely by moving away from the linear model of make-use-discard into one where we grow or produce new things from recycled components) can push the technosphere back into a relatively healthy circle of resource use and reuse—similar to how the other spheres have evolved.

I left some old computer cases on the side of the road near an empty field as habitats for small animals and insects. For some reason none of the other drivers seemed to appreciate my environmental activism! More...

The critical thing to understand about the technosphere is that, like the other spheres, it doesn't care whether humans survive. It exists outside of us, even if it includes us. There's nobody in charge of the technosphere, nobody knows exactly how it works as a whole, and nobody designed it.

Ultimately, in a healthy technosphere, no waste would be produced, and no technofossils (or at least, very few on par with what's left behind by the other spheres) would be left behind. It might make future geologists' work less interesting, but at least there will be scientists puzzling over their ancestors in the future.

*This article is part of Future Tense, a collaboration among Arizona State University, New America, and **Slate**. Future Tense explores the ways emerging technologies affect society, policy, and culture. To read more, follow us on Twitter and sign up for our weekly newsletter.*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Hungary threatens to ban Heineken's red star as 'communist'

Staff and agencies in Budapest

Thursday 23 March 2017 Last modified on Thursday 23 March 2017

theguardian.com

The famous red star logo of Dutch beer Heineken could be banned in Hungary under a government proposal seeking to prohibit the commercial use of “totalitarian” symbols.

The draft law was introduced this week by the ruling Fidesz party of hardline rightwing prime minister Viktor Orban, ostensibly to outlaw merchandise featuring symbols like the Nazi swastika or the communist five-pointed red star.

But it is seen as a tit-for-tat reaction to Heineken winning a trademark dispute over a beer that is sold in Romania to ethnic Hungarians.

“If the bill goes through it will be forbidden to use symbols of totalitarian regimes such as national socialism or communism,” said Janos Lazar, Orban’s chief of staff.

The government said it had a “moral obligation” to Hungarians who had suffered “under Nazi and Bolshevik reigns of terror”.

Anyone in breach of the proposed law could face a fine of 2bn forint (€6.5m) and two years’ jail.

Heineken insisted its logo had “no political meaning whatsoever” and that it dated back to medieval European brewers.

“We use the same brand symbols across the world, in every market,” the firm said in a statement released this week.

“We will closely monitor this local issue and hope ... this matter will be resolved soon.”

Heineken’s trademark red logo first appeared in the 1930s.

When the symbol became associated with communism after the second world war, the brewery swapped it for a white star before reverting back to the original after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the Romanian dispute, a court ruled that the locally brewed “Csiki” beer, popular with ethnic Hungarians, was too similar to Heineken’s Romanian-language “Ciuc” range and infringed trademark rights.

Budapest had slammed the decision as “undignified, unjust and anti-Hungarian” and supported calls to boycott Heineken products.

Lazar on Thursday again accused Heineken of abusing “its power against a Hungarian firm”.

Observers say the bill has little chance of becoming law given a number of big brands use red stars such as Italian mineral water San Pelligrino.

The Hungarian Olympic fencing champion Tamas Kovacs quipped he would return his medal of honour because it features a red star. “I don’t want to risk two years in prison,” he wrote on Facebook.



## With AFP

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Hunter finds detached skull in Long Island field

nypost.com

---

By Kathianne Boniello and Jennifer Bain

March 4, 2017 10:15pm

Suffolk police are investigating a skull and other bones found by a hunter in a Long Island field.

The hunter spotted the detached skull Friday as he followed deer tracks off a hiking trail in Middle Island, he told The Post.

“When I got closer I saw the filings in the teeth,” said the hunter, who didn’t want to be named. “I guarantee it was there a long time, over five years. There was no flesh, no hair, you could see fatigue cracks in the skull from being dried in the sun. I also saw one side of the jaw, maybe two arm bones, a collarbone, vertebrae.”

He walked back to the road and contacted Suffolk County cops, who cordoned off the area.

The case brought back memories of the Gilgo Beach slayings, in which the remains of at least 10 victims, and possibly as many as 17, have been found.

The remains of two victims were found split between Gilgo Beach and Manorville, about 43 miles apart. Middle Island is about 10 miles west of Manorville.

So far there’s no evidence linking the Middle Island find to the Gilgo Beach slayings, according to police sources.

But the discovery should raise red flags, especially since some of the area’s unsolved killings included bodies or remains that were missing heads, said filmmaker Josh Zeman, who investigated the Gilgo Beach killings as part of his eight-part true-crime series “The Killing Season.”

“We need to be diligent in identifying anybody who is found,” said Zeman, pointing to the 1997 case of “Peaches,” in which the torso of a woman with a heart-shaped peach tattoo on her breast turned up in Hempstead Lake State Park.

© 2017 NYP Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved

---

*Copyright 2017 NYP Holdings. All rights reserved.*

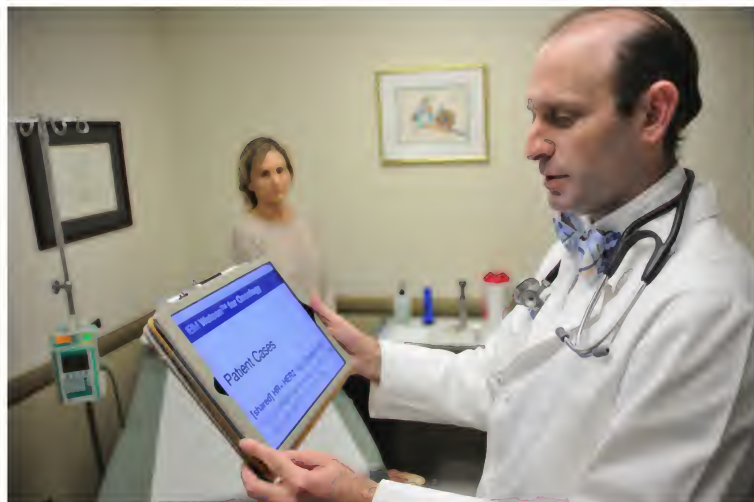
## IBM's Watson proves useful at fighting cancer—except in Texas

arstechnica.com

### IBM's Watson proves useful at fighting cancer—except in Texas

**Despite early success, MD Anderson ignored IT, broke protocols, spent millions.**

Beth Mole - 2/21/2017, 5:59 AM



IBM's Watson is on the move. With the new ability to quickly develop clever personalized treatment strategies for cancer patients, Watson is making its debut in hospitals around the world—from the US to India, Korea, and China. Earlier this month, a medical center in Jupiter, Florida, announced it too was welcoming the famed, Jeopardy-winning computing system into its hospital rooms.

But, there's one place where Watson isn't moving: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In fact, Watson is frozen there. And it's more than just a computer glitch.

According to a blistering audit by the University of Texas System, the cancer center grossly

mismanaged its splashy program with IBM, which started back in 2012. The program aimed to teach Watson how to treat cancer patients and match them to clinical trials. Watson initially met goals and impressed center doctors, but the project hit the rocks as MD Anderson officials snubbed their own IT experts, mishandled about \$62 million in funding, and failed to follow basic procedures for overseeing contracts and invoices, the audit concludes.

IBM pulled support for the project back in September of last year. Watson is currently prohibited from being used on patients there, and the fate of MD Anderson's partnership with IBM is in question. MD Anderson is now seeking bids from other contractors who might take IBM's place.

Meanwhile, a similar project that IBM started with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York around the same time frame has already wrapped up. It resulted in a commercial product that is currently making its way into hospitals around the world, including in Jupiter.

"I am incredibly excited about where we are at this point in our history," Rob Merkel, vice president of Oncology and Genomics at IBM Watson Health, told Ars. IBM is working on several projects to get Watson helping with clinical trials, cancer patients, and genomics. "I think it's really important that you read the [UT audit report] and keep that in mind," he said. But in terms of the broader look of Watson's oncology work, "I'm very, very excited."

### So what went wrong at MD Anderson?

First, the cancer center isn't new to controversy. The center's president, Dr. Ronald DePinho, and his wife, Dr. Lynda Chin, have been in the middle of several scandals since they both joined the cancer center in 2011. Before moving to Ars, Eric Berger reported extensively on the scandals for *The Houston Chronicle*, along with his colleague at the newspaper, Todd Ackerman. DePinho drew criticism for his ties to drug companies and hyping therapies, among other things.

Chin, who was formerly the head of MD Anderson's department of genomic medicine and co-director of its Institute for Applied Cancer Science, has been repeatedly accused of benefitting from favoritism. She was involved with a controversial \$20 million incubator grant awarded by a state cancer agency in 2012 without scientific review. The grant was rescinded after it sparked wide-spread controversy, plus high-profile resignations. State lawmakers even wrote legislation to overhaul the granting agency following the fiasco. Then in 2013, Chin drew fire for a lavish office renovation, which some estimated to cost around \$2 million at a time when budgets were tight.



Chin left the position in 2015 to become an associate vice-chancellor in the University of Texas system. But, before she left, she was personally in charge of the Watson project.

According to the audit, Chin set up contracts and service agreements with IBM and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), which was supposed to develop a business plan for any Watson-based oncology products MD Anderson created. However, most of the agreements weren't procured through competitive processes, some weren't formally justified or approved, and some weren't properly authorized, the audit found.

Nevertheless, by September 2016, MD Anderson had paid out around \$39 million to IBM and nearly \$23 million to PwC.

As the partnership progressed, Chin also didn't get the Watson program approved through MD Anderson's Information Technology's development policies and processes. Chin aggressively argued that the Watson project was a research project, not an IT project. However, the project relied on IT professionals.

### Glitches of the human kind

Though there's ambiguity in MD Anderson's rules on IT involvement, the auditors concluded that the IT department should have been overseeing the work. In fact, they hinted that integration of Watson with the hospital's software was a sticking point for progress—something IT leaders would have been in a good position to help address.

In their report, the auditors noted that:

“Medical oncology staff also told us that internal pilot testing of [Watson's work with lung cancer treatment] achieved an accuracy of prediction near 90 percent, but advised that significant updating is needed before [Watson] can be tested further. We were told that [Watson] must be integrated to the current medical records system and drug protocol and clinical trial data must be updated before internal pilot testing can resume...”

That is, the hospital had updated the software it was using for electronic medical records. But the new software wasn't compatible with how Watson was configured and project leaders failed to perform updates that would have allowed the systems to play nicely. This kept Watson from being fed new information. Without up-to-the-minute updates on a patient's health records, new medical studies, and drug data, Watson simply can't come up with the best treatment options.

In a fiery response, Chin accused the auditors of trying to undermine her authority by disagreeing with her decision not to follow standard IT policies. She also argued that because IT leadership didn't specifically request that she follow their policies, they were silently agreeing with her decision.

She concluded:

“Your dismissal without justification of my expert opinions in my role as the [principal investigator] who conceptualized, designed and led the project, coupled with your disregard of the obvious interpretation as inferred by the actions of the IT leadership as noted above, calls into question the objectivity of your findings.”

Lastly, auditors found that invoices were paid regardless of whether services were provided, but weren't consistently paid or paid in a timely way. Some fees were suspiciously set at rates just below the amounts that would trigger review and require approval by the Board of Regents. And, MD Anderson paid out money from donations that hadn't actually come through yet—leaving the project with an \$11.59 million deficit.

After several stalls, IBM walked away from the project in September 2016.

In a statement to Ars, MD Anderson said:

“When it was appropriate to do so, the project was placed on hold. As a public institution, we decided to go out to the marketplace for competitive bids to see where the industry has progressed... MD Anderson remains committed to exploring how digital solutions can accelerate the translation of research into advanced cancer care for patients.”

*Editor's Note: The post has been updated to provide more information on Watson's compatibility with MD Anderson's medical record software.*

---

```
/* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. */
.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px
!important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }
.en-markup-crop-options div
div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }
```

## Iceland's pagans enjoy dramatic rise - BBC News

bbc.com

Iceland has seen a dramatic increase in the followers of its indigenous pagan movement in recent years, making Odin worshippers the country's fastest-growing religion.

National Statistics Bureau figures show that followers of the Asatru Association still lag far behind the established Lutheran Church, which accounts for 237,938 or almost 70% of the population and has remained stable for decades. But the total of Icelanders who revere Odin, Thor and the Goddess Freyja has leapt 50% since 2014 to 3,583, with more than twice as many male as female faithful, Morgunbladid newspaper reports.

The High Chieftain of Asatru is composer Hilmar Orn Hilmarsson, who is better known abroad for his work with bands such as Sigur Ros. He says the surge in members is partly due to media coverage of Asatru's colourful religious ceremonies. "More people are seeing what we do, and they like it. We do not recruit members. We just encourage people to come along if they are interested. Our ceremonies are open to everyone," he told the paper.

Asatru has been almost entirely free of the racial politics that has dogged Norse neo-paganism elsewhere, and the movement works closely with other religions to promote civil rights and ecological awareness. The movement's latest initiative is the construction of a temple on the picturesque wooded hill of Oskjuhlid - conveniently near the capital Reykjavik. where more than a third of the population of Iceland lives.

Mr Hilmarsson says the country's first pagan temple in 1,000 years will be used to mark weddings, naming ceremonies, and funerals, and should accommodate 250 people at a time. Built on land donated by Reykjavik Council but funded by donations, it should be ready early in 2018. And there can be little doubt that Asaru's media-savvy High Chieftain will ensure that its dedication attracts plenty of coverage in Iceland and abroad.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Idaho woman blames Bigfoot for crashing

kivitv.com



MOSCOW, Idaho - An Idaho woman claimed her Wednesday crash into a deer on Highway 95 caused by Bigfoot.

According to Pullman radio, the 50-year old woman from Tensed, Idaho told the Latah County Sheriff's Office she saw a sasquatch chasing some deer along the road. When she looked into her rearview mirror to see the creature, she hit a doe that ran in front of her car.

She said the Bigfoot was about seven to eight

feet tall.

A Latah County Sheriff's deputy responded and found evidence of the crash.

According to Pullman radio, "the report didn't indicate if he found any evidence of the elusive Bigfoot."

Copyright 2017 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Print this article

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Iditarod dogs reach checkpoint without their dozing musher

yahoo.com

**AP** JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Add sleep to the already long list of hazards in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.  
Assoc  
Pres

A video posted on the official race website shows a dog team that arrived at a checkpoint without a musher. "Now you've seen it all, huh?" a man in the video says.

As the video scanned the faces of the mellow-mannered dogs, a man could be heard saying, "Where's Linwood?"

That would be Linwood Fiedler, a race veteran. He arrived at the checkpoint about an hour behind his dogs after falling asleep and toppling off his sled, according to information accompanying the video.

Fiedler checked in at 4:09 a.m. Thursday and was back on the trail at 11:37 a.m., race standings show.

He told Anchorage television station KTUU that he had been fighting to stay awake.

"I was doing a pretty good job, and then I lost," he said, laughing.

"I'll tell you one thing. From the minute my body left the sled until my face smashed into the snow, I was still asleep," he said.

Fiedler told the station he has fallen off his sled only a few times during his career. The last time it happened, he was awake, so he said, "Whoa," and his dogs stopped.

"I was really hoping for a repeat of that last night," he said. "You feel a little alone and naked walking down the Yukon River all by yourself in the middle of the night, looking at wolf tracks that every once in a while, you go, 'Hmm.'"

Fiedler began dog mushing in 1977, according to his profile on the race website. For the last 16 summers, he's operated a glacier tour business.

Race director Mark Nordman said Fiedler faced no penalty for his separation from his dogs.

"It's another story for his book," he said.

The winner of the nearly 1,000-mile race across Alaska is expected in Nome early next week. Racers set off from Fairbanks on Monday.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



ReutersMarch 1, 2017



French artist Abraham Poincheval poses inside his artwork Pierre ("Stone") in Paris, France, February 22, 2017, before entering the rock as part of his project to live inside for a week. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann

PARIS (Reuters) - French artist Abraham Poincheval was freed from a block of stone in a Paris museum on Wednesday after spending seven days enclosed in

it.

He entombed himself in a body-shaped slot carved in a limestone boulder on Feb 22 at Paris' Palais de Tokyo contemporary art museum.

Poincheval, 44, ate stewed fruit and purees while breathing through an air vent. He had some personal items such as a log book and an emergency phone line.

"I'm a little dazed, which I imagine is totally normal after one week living in a rock (...) which hosted me well. I thank it very much for having been so enthusiastic about welcoming me," he told reporters minutes after his release.

"Yes, there were very long moments of loss of self, where suddenly (...) you no longer know where you are, but you are there, and that is what was great (about it)," he said.

The artist was helped out of the room by medical team to the applause of an audience that had gathered to witness his release.

In 2014, Poincheval spent 13 days living inside a hollowed-out bear sculpture, eating worms and beetles to mirror a bear's diet.

(Reporting by Nathalie Kantaris Diaz; Writing by Matthias Blamont; Editing by Bate Felix/Jeremy Gaunt)

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## In 1937, a judge quietly asked Meyer Lansky to form a squad of Nazi-punching gangsters to raid Bund meetings

/ Cory Doctorow / 4:26 am Sun Feb 26, 2017  
4:26 am Sun

boingboing.net



Meyer Lansky was an infamous and ruthless gangster -- albeit one so personally charming that his life is chronicled in a book called *But He Was Good to His Mother* -- and no friend of New York State Judge Nathan Perlman; nevertheless, as the Nazi-supporting German-American Bund staged more and more toxic rallies in New York City, Perlman quietly asked Meyer to form a squad of Jewish gangsters to disrupt their meetings.

Lansky turned down Perlman's offer of cash to carry out the beatings, and likewise the offer from his good pal "Lucky" Luciano to bring Italians along, insisting that this was a duty that the Jewish criminal underground would shoulder voluntarily and alone.

Lansky and his paleo-antifas were apparently devastatingly effective, delivering savage beatings at Bund meetings -- even infiltrating them with club-wielding fifth columnists who'd rush the stage at the same moment as the outsiders were beating down the doors.

Judge Perlman had charged Lansky not to kill anyone in his activities, and apparently Lansky never did. Lansky and Bugsy Siegel also formed a Nazi-punching training organization that taught other people how to beat up Nazis.

I must confess here that I am ambivalent about Nazi-punching; I freely acknowledge the atavistic, visceral pleasure in doing so, and I also understand the arguments about free speech and its consequences. But because of the former, I'm suspicious of my sympathy to the latter -- it always seems too much of a happy coincidence when the thing your lizard brain insists will make you happy seems to coincide neatly with the rationale your higher intellect is able to construct to justify it.

And as a practical matter quite separate from moral questions, I worry that Nazi-punching is often tactically wrong, giving the enemy both legal and rhetorical ammunition.

But that doesn't mean that I don't enjoy reading Lansky describing his adventures, in an *Inglorious Basterds* sort of way.

Here's Meyer's description of one of these events:

"We got there that evening and found several hundred people dressed in brown shirts. The stage was decorated with a swastika and pictures of Hitler. The speaker started ranting. There were only about fifteen of us, but we went into action.

We attacked them in the hall and threw some of them out the windows. There were fistfights all over the place. Most of the Nazis panicked and ran out. We chased them and beat them up, and some of them were out of action for months. Yes, it was violence. We wanted to teach them a lesson. We wanted to show them that Jews would not always sit back and accept insults.”

... “The Nazi scumbags were meeting one night on the second floor. Nat Arno and I went upstairs and threw stink bombs into the room where the creeps were. As they came out of the room, running from the horrible odor of the stink bombs and running down the steps to go into the street to escape, our boys were waiting with bats and iron bars. It was like running a gauntlet. Our boys were lined up on both sides and we started hitting, aiming for their heads or any other part of their bodies, with our bats and irons. The Nazis were screaming blue murder. This was one of the most happy moments of my life.”

HISTORY SO A NAZI WALKS INTO AN IRON BAR: THE MEYER LANSKY STORY [Sadie the Goat/Anarchogeek Review]

(via JWZ)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Two brave teenage boys jump into a 70ft WELL to save elderly woman

08:08 EST, 3 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

Two brave teenage boys jump into a 70ft WELL to save the life of an elderly woman who fell in

- Aparajita Devi fell down the well while fetching water in a remote Indian village
- The two boys spotted her falling and raised the alarm before jumping in the well
- The 65-year-old was rescued from the water in Dhaneria Kala in Madhya Pradesh

By Giulia Crouch For Mailonline

An elderly woman who fell down a 70ft well had her life saved by two teenage boys who selflessly jumped in after her.

Aparajita Devi, 65, fell down the well while trying to fetch water in a remote village in Madhya Pradesh.

The two boys spotted her falling and raised an alarm to attract attention of their neighbors before jumping in to rescue her in Dhaneria Kala in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Miss Devi fell into the well when she fainted as she went to fetch water.

After hearing the splash and cries for help, Sher Singh, who was standing nearby jumped into the well.

This inspired Rakesh Nath to join in the rescue operation that last an hour and a half.



Aparajita Devi, 65, fell down the well while trying to fetch water in a remote village in Madhya Pradesh

People standing around the well lowered a rope cot with threads tied to each its legs

The commotion alerted more people who circled around the well and watched the brave boys rescue the lady.

People standing around the well lowered a rope cot with threads tied to each its legs.

Singh and Nath, who were keeping the lady afloat so far, loaded her onto the cot.

Singh and Nath, who were keeping the lady afloat so far, loaded her onto the cot

She was then pulled out of the well with the help of the villagers.

'I don't know what had happened to me after seeing the lady falling into the well,' said one of her rescuers.







'I ran to help her and when I saw her crying for help, I couldn't stop myself.'

'I am glad that I have been able to save a life.'

'It feels great.'

She was then pulled out of the well with the help of the villagers



/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Insanity and Separate Confinement at the Liverpool Borough Gaol

histprisonhealth.com

The 'purest' form of separate confinement, introduced at Pentonville Prison in 1842, was a 'failed experiment', which was modified significantly after 1847. Yet it remained an influential model of prison discipline for the remainder of the nineteenth century, although the rigour of its implementation across England varied.



*HM Prison Walton, Liverpool, 1910. Public Domain.*

The new Borough Gaol at Liverpool, which opened in 1855, was explicitly designed and built for the implementation of separate confinement. While accommodating 1000 prisoners, Liverpool was frequently overcrowded. Unsurprisingly, this frustrated the full functioning of separate confinement. In October 1864, the Governor reported that on the female side 'every year except one (1861) [there were] more prisoners than could be provided for in separate confinement', while the male side for 'four years out of nine ... had a greater number [of prisoners] than the number of cells'.<sup>1</sup> In 1869, 358 women were thrown into the 'very worst kind of association', 'frustrating the object for which the gaol was constructed on the separate system'.<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, separate confinement appears to have

remained the goal of the prison's officers and the Visiting Justices.

From the 1860s, reflecting contemporary changes, the regime at Liverpool became increasingly harsh. Among penologists, alienists and social reformers, there was a broad shift away from earlier, 'erroneous' reformist theories towards considering prisoners as incapable of reform. Dr Thomas Laycock of Edinburgh University argued that the habitual or incorrigible criminal was essentially unreformable; a class of people 'numbering tens of thousands' so 'constituted corporeally that they possess no self-control beyond that of an ordinary brute animal – nay, less than a well-bred horse or dog. They are for the most part immoral imbeciles'.<sup>3</sup> In this context, in 1864, the chaplain at Liverpool, Thomas Carter, called for the separate system to be modified, increasing its deterrent capacity for repeat offenders and reducing the number of prisoners.

By 1868, the treadmill was in full operation at Liverpool with prisoners spending 6 to 7 hours a day on it. Some chaplains opposed its use, 'due to its physical effects, which can result in irreparable injury and causes much anxiety'.<sup>4</sup> The prison surgeon, Francis Archer, however, who was responsible for certifying prisoners as 'fit' to be placed on it, did not think it had 'prejudicially affected the gelato of the prisoners; persons of a weak frame of body, and those encumbered with an unnecessary amount of fat, of course feel it the most'. Yet, officials' confidence that the harsher regime had 'already proved a deterrent to the old thieves' was misplaced and the number of committals continued to grow, from 884 in the second quarter of 1866 to 1011 for the same period in 1867. By the early 1890s the prison was committing almost 20,000 prisoners a year, most on short-term sentences.

Prison doctors spent a great deal of time investigating cases of mental disorder amongst prisoners, organising removals to other institutions and looking out for signs of shamming. Removals were a significant cost – financial and human – for the Liverpool Corporation and the prison staff. For example, in the year ending September 1877, nine prisoners were removed to the neighbouring Lancashire asylums of Rainhill, Prestwich and Whittingham. It is unclear how far these cases were linked with the separate system, the harsh regime at Liverpool or other factors. For many of the prisoners transferred into local asylums investigations revealed past histories of asylum admission, previous instances of mental breakdown and hereditary insanity. Suicide attempts in the gaol were common but, following investigation, were often dismissed as shamming and prisoners punished. In 1864 when two male prisoners attempted to hang themselves, the Governor claimed that 'neither had any intention of injuring himself'. The prisoners – rather than the prison discipline and system – were blamed for their mental disorders.

In addition to its size, high rates of recidivism and large number of short sentences, Liverpool was exceptional in its number of Irish and female prisoners. Between 1864 and 1879 65% of those committed to gaol were Roman Catholic and 8 out of 10 of these were Irish-born or the children of Irish-born parents. The Irish preponderance was accentuated among women, and Liverpool was 'the only prison in the world where the females exceed the males'.<sup>5</sup> There were few opportunities for female labour in Liverpool and, according to prison's minister, James

Nugent, 'the destitute and friendless girl is readily allured into the path of crime'. Women were typically committed on charges of prostitution or being drunk and disorderly. Some were jailed 30, 40, 50 or even 60 times, on short-term sentences. In the first 9 months of 1864, 1,526 prostitutes were committed to Liverpool prison. Almost two-thirds of them were Catholic.<sup>6</sup> The passage back to Ireland was paid for some of these prisoners, although they might later reappear in the Liverpool Gaol. While remedial measures – reformatories or migration – were mooted, medical explanations of the 'incurability' of such women increasingly suggested that their behaviour was the result of 'some pathological condition rather than any ill will'.<sup>7</sup> Longer sentences were urged by the Liverpool Visiting Committee although they feared 'there wd be difficulty agreeing to a proposal that Criminals – like lunatics – should be detained till they are cured'.

The peculiarities of Liverpool, a port city, with a vast prison population and large migrant component, and the high number of short-term sentences added to the difficulties of implementing separation and prompted a more penal approach. In this instance, practice was governed by the view that most prisoners straddled the borders of madness and badness and needed to be 'cured' of their 'incurable' natures.

## Notes

1 Liverpool Record Office (LRO), 347 JUS 4/1/2, Minutes of Liverpool Justice Sessions, vol 1, 5.

2 LRO, H365.32 BOR, Reports of the Governor, Chaplain, Prison Minister and Surgeon, Liverpool Borough Prison (October, 1869), 14.

3 Thomas Laycock, 'Suggestions for Rendering Medico-Mental Science Available to the Better Administration of Justice and the More Effectual Prevention of Lunacy and Crime', *Journal of Mental Science*, 14:67 (1868), 334-5.

4 LRO, H365.32 BOR, Reports of the Governor, Chaplain, Prison Minister and Surgeon, 18.

5 John Belcham, *Irish Catholic and Scouse* (2007), 82.

6 LRO, 347 JUS 4/1/2 Minutes of Justice, 20-21.

7 Lucy Zedner, *Women, Crime, and Custody* (1991), 5.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



# CANADA

## TRENDING

[Queen Elizabeth II](#) | [Internet Nostalgia](#) | [Real estate](#) | [Trump](#) | [Best books of 2016](#) | [Lotto Max](#)

## Investigation into satanic child sex abuse involving dead U.K. prime minister began in Edmonton with hypnosis



**JOSEPH BREAN** | January 13, 2017 2:54 PM ET  
[More from Joseph Brean](#) | [@JosephBrean](#)

[Republish](#)  
[Reprint](#)



The investigation into Edward Heath's alleged sex abuse of children began in Edmonton.

Keystone/Getty Images

A controversial police investigation into suspected sex abuse of children by the late British prime minister Edward Heath, with related claims of Satanic rituals and murders, originated in Edmonton in 1989, when a Canadian psychologist hypnotized a woman and helped her “recover” suppressed memories, according to a confidential police consultant report obtained by the National Post.

Cheryl Malmo, an Edmonton psychologist who retired in 2016, hypnotized a woman to treat her for depression, which she suspected was related to abuse from her childhood in Wiltshire, England, according to the report. What followed was a litany of horrific tales, seeping slowly from the woman’s memory, growing in lurid detail over time, “guided and influenced” by Malmo’s hypnotherapy, according to the consultant criminologist.



Dr. Cheryl Malmo worked as a psychologist who specialized in helping people heal from traumatic experiences. Edmonton Journal

They include stories of helping her mother kidnap a boy, who was raped by her father on a church altar, then suspended from a rope, as the woman's mother cut his penis with a knife and drained his blood into a gleaming metal bucket. After apparently suppressing these memories all her adult life, the woman, then in her late 40s, told stories of rape, candlelit black magic rituals, cannibalism, child murder and bestiality — stories that were initially about her parents, but in time grew to include one of the most powerful men in the world.

"It is quite possible that childhood sexual abuse did indeed take place," the expert report concludes. "However, many of the so-called retrieved memories seem to me most likely to fit False Memory Recall of the type associated with the Satanic Ritual Abuse scandal of the 1980s. Some of the extreme ritual abuse and ritual murder scenes, in particular, strike me as crossing the boundary into flights of fancy."

The report recommends "no charges are brought in cases where evidence relies solely or mainly on the recovery of alleged memories under psychotherapy, especially where hypnosis is employed." It is also skeptical of evidence from the woman's sisters, three of whom eventually made similar claims of serial rape by their parents and others, including Heath, which the report says are clearly influenced by each other. Another of those sisters had also moved to Canada.

## I now believe that both of my parents were practising members of the Occult

"I think there's definite cross-contamination," said the report's author, Rachel Hoskins, in an interview. Whether this was honest confabulation, or dishonest fabrication, the memories are not backed up by corresponding official records, such as police investigations or missing person reports, Hoskins said.

Her report has thrown a wrench into a sprawling police investigation that so far, 28 years after it started, has not resulted in any criminal charges.

The Edmonton woman's allegations were first brought to police back when they were recovered in 1989, but they were focused on the sisters' parents, not Heath, and no charges resulted. One sister returned to police a few months later, to say more memories had arisen. "I now believe that both of my parents were practising members of the Occult," she reported.

The case was resurrected only in the last year or so, with the added detail of Heath's alleged participation in some of the abuse, but not the Satanic rituals. One sister told police she had seen his face on the news and "trusted my gut." This crucial recollection came at a time when the police response to historical sexual abuse claims about public figures was in dramatic flux, in Britain especially.

Jimmy Savile, for example, a beloved British television performer, had been posthumously revealed as a pedophilic monster with more than 500 victims. The resulting panic led to a police investigation that took down big names — Gary Glitter, Dave Lee Travis, Max Clifford, Rolf Harris. But several widely publicized arrests of high-profile men were not followed by prosecution, such as pop star Cliff Richard. In one case, a former MP died without learning that police cleared his name months earlier. Other prominent politicians, including a former defence chief, may deserve compensation for false accusations about pedophile rings, according to the head of the Metropolitan Police.

These investigations changed the national tone in Britain, and prompted fears that the woefully belated legal response to child sex abuse was morphing into a witch hunt. Even Robert Buckland, Britain's Solicitor-General, has privately raised concerns with Wiltshire's police commissioner about an expensive "fishing expedition," according to the Sunday Times.

In this context, Heath is a big fish, but he died in 2005, so any criminal charges would be against others. He served as Conservative prime minister in the early 1970s, and his term is remembered largely for economic turmoil, labour unrest, and strife in Northern Ireland. He is mentioned scornfully in the Beatles' song Taxman, in the backing vocals "Haha, Mr. Wilson, Haha Mr. Heath." (Harold Wilson, Heath's Labour Party rival, was prime minister both before and after him.)

Hoskins, the author of the report, is a registered expert criminologist for the U.K. National Crime Agency, and a specialist in faith-based violence such as witchcraft, paganism and Satanism. Hired by police to explain this arcane subculture, she was given access to diaries, police statements, and interview transcripts, mainly about the sisters.



Peter Cade/Central Press/Getty Images



Edward Heath in 1971

AFP/Central Press

Their father worked at Wilton Barracks, an army facility that was closed in 2010. It was used by the United States Army in World War II, and became a strategic command centre for British forces afterwards. Many of the sisters' allegations involve being forced into sexual abuse in the barracks by military men, some of whom are likely still living.

Wilton Barracks is in Wiltshire, near Stonehenge, and the image of neo-Pagan ritual plays largely in the controversy. Heath had a home nearby in Salisbury, where police held a press conference to solicit complainants.

## This is not a 'fishing trip or 'witch hunt'



Malmo, a psychologist focused on childhood trauma and sexual violence, has been a court-recognized expert witness in Canada on cases about, for example, post-traumatic stress disorder. She was also profiled in the documentary *When The Devil Knocks*, about a woman whose dissociative identity disorder seemed to stem from childhood abuse, and left her with more than 30 distinct personalities, each unknown to the other. Malmo treated each as a distinct patient.

Reached by email, Malmo said she could not discuss patient matters, nor confirm the identity of a patient. About Hoskins' report, she wrote: "these false memory claims she seems intent on were disposed of in North America years ago by solid research and sound critique by many experts. It appears that just as the issue of child sexual abuse did not arise in Europe (except perhaps in the Netherlands) until decades after it was recognized in North America, the lack of substantiation of so-called false memories and the critiques of this position are slow to reach some professionals (this particular criminologist)."

Malmo said her own records are destroyed after 10 years.

"Whilst it is quite likely that a prolific pedophile would serially abuse all his daughters, the sequence by which the sisters retrieved their memories cannot be considered investigatively pure," Hoskins concludes in her 150-page report.

Wiltshire Police have taken unusual steps to rebut Hoskins' report, calling its leak "a significant breach of confidentiality and trust," and threatening unspecified "pro-active action" in response.

Chief Constable Mike Veale said he was "duty bound" to investigate Heath, and is "very concerned and profoundly disappointed" about speculation that he is leading a witch hunt, which he fears could undermine confidence in police, or threaten any future prosecutions.

"This is not a 'fishing trip or 'witch hunt,'" he said. There are many allegations about a "significant number" of people, and the specific allegations about Satanism do not relate to Heath himself, he said. Rather, according to Hoskins' report, two of the sisters report memories of Heath participating in their rapes, recalling him shirtless, with a "grotesque" face and "an element of cruelty."

"If the force had received allegations of non-recent child abuse against a former prime minister and done nothing, what would the reaction have been?" Veale said.

• Email: [jbrean@nationalpost.com](mailto:jbrean@nationalpost.com) | Twitter:

Follow @JosephBrean

1,069 followers



AFP/Central Press

## LATEST CANADA VIDEOS



Raptors Pres and GM Ujiri, and Prime Minister Trudeau meet students affected by school shooting



Toddler's death was avoidable, fire chief says



The opera singer



Coal power phase-out key to 'clean economy future': Minister



Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: [Canada](#), [News](#), [Editors' Choice](#), [Edmonton](#), [Edward Heath](#), [Heath](#), [Satanism](#), [Sexual Offenses](#)

⌵

POST POINTS	Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader	Sign In	Learn More	Join
-------------	---	---------	------------	------

## The Invisible Bean Spell - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog [strangehistory.net](http://strangehistory.net)

### The Invisible Bean Spell *February 12, 2017*

Author: *Beach Combing* | in : *Modern* , *trackback*



**Location:** the spell is described by the English writer John Aubrey in the 1680s. He alleges though that it was from '[t]he Jewes'.

**Aim:** to grow a number of magic beans that will render the eater briefly invisible.

**Ingredients:** some black beans, a decapitated human head, a young child.

#### Method

Aubrey's Spell (Aubrey 1881, 102-3)

- (i) Bury human head with one bean placed in the eye; also plant other beans in the earth around.
- (ii) Wait for the eye-bean to grow and produce ripe beans: use the beans planted thereabouts to test ripeness.
- (iii) Bring young child and, holding on to the child, have them shell the beans that have grown out of the buried head.
- (iv) One bean is invisible, and you will know which when the child becomes invisible on shelling: take the bean.

#### Aubrey Adaptation

Ball (2015) gives a variant version of this spell, allegedly from Aubrey: there are *seven* black beans, the head must be of a suicide, the child must be a girl and the beans, once planted, must be watered with brandy for seven days. It is not clear if this Ball has borrowed from another version of Aubrey (Aubrey's texts often have important variants) or whether this is a later and garbled version.

#### Dangers

Aubrey tells of a group of Jewish merchants who, unable to acquire a dead man's head used a cat's. Things did not end well: 'but about a day or two after, a Cock came and scratcht [the beans] all up' (Aubrey 1881, 103). Do try, then, and use the correct ingredients.

#### Antiquity

This is the only spell of this sort, known to me, from Europe: if it really is Jewish in origin it would be worth following the spell back into the magical spells of the diaspora.

**Help:** Can anyone sort out the conundrum of where Ball gets his variants from; **and what about the supposed Jewish origins of the spell:** drbeachcombing AT yahoo DOT com



For references and explanation of the project and tag index: Beach's Book of Shadows.

- © 2017 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Iron Man robs blood bank near Fort Lauderdale

local10.com



**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** - Broward Sheriff's Office detectives are looking for a gunman who robbed a blood bank near Fort Lauderdale.

The armed robbery was reported about 10:30 a.m. March 3 at Continental Services

Group, Inc.

Surveillance video shows the gunman, who was wearing a hooded Iron Man sweatshirt, walking up to the receptionist's desk, pushing a customer aside and pointing a gun at the employees.

BSO spokeswoman Joy Oglesby said the gunman told the employees, "I'm hungry."

The gunman got away with the cash box.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call BSO detectives at 954-321-4738 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.

Copyright 2017 by WPLG Local10.com - All rights reserved.

Copyright 2017 by WPLG Local10.com - All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Is 'Killer Kelly' Ireland's most prolific murderer?

sundayworld.com

Friday 3rd March 2017

• Crime DeskBy Alan Sherry

**When Laois man Kieran Patrick Kelly died in an English prison in 2001, while serving life for two murders, his death failed to generate any headlines.**

However, in 2015, retired police officer Geoff Platt wrote a book which made some astonishing claims - including that Kelly may have been responsible for up to 31 murders which weren't properly investigated as police feared it would cause mass panic.

In his book 'The London Underground Serial Killer', Platt revealed how Kelly admitted to numerous murders, and that his favourite method of killing was pushing people under trains.

An RTÉ radio documentary broadcast last year revealed that a skeleton with a noose around it was found buried in Kelly's garden in his native Laois in 1993 but gardai would not comment.

Kelly is said to have carried out his first murder in 1953, when he travelled to London from Dublin - where he moved with his parents at the age of seven - for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Platt claims Kelly said he was a repressed homosexual and panicked when a friend asked him why he wasn't yet married. Kelly claimed he pushed the friend under a train at Stockwell Tube station in south London.

Kelly then went back to Dublin, where he picked up convictions for theft and other offences, and received a two-year sentence.

He later returned to the UK, where he got married and had children. But the marriage broke down, and Kelly ended up living rough and drinking heavily.

He was arrested for various offences over the following years, including armed robbery, but had been linked to several killings - including that of Hector Fisher, whose body was found close to a church in Clapham Common. He had been brutally beaten and stabbed to death.

Kelly was questioned by police as he was in the area at the time but they had no evidence against him. Police also spoke to him after he pushed a pal onto a train line. But the man survived and didn't want to press charges, as he figured it was an accident.

Kelly was also charged over an incident where he allegedly pushed another man in front of a train but was acquitted on the grounds of there being no motive for the killing.

In 1983, Kelly was arrested for robbery and put in a police cell with homeless alcoholic William Boyd. Kelly strangled Boyd to death with his socks, annoyed at his cellmate's snoring.

Kelly admitted the killing and also told police he'd slain 15 other people, including Hector Fisher.

"I was too clever for you," he told Detective Ian Brown.

Kelly also told police he poured methylated spirits down the throat of another man who died in hospital the next day, and pushed another victim down some stairs. They later died from their head injuries.

In total, Kelly confessed to 15 killings, including numerous other occasions when he'd pushed people underneath trains.

Kelly was charged with five killings but the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) decided not to proceed with the other cases after Kelly was convicted of the murders of Fisher and Boyd.

While Kelly was a killer, his defence solicitor told RTÉ he questioned if he'd invented some killings.



"I did wonder if he wanted to get infamy for being a mass murderer," the solicitor said.

Following the publication of Platt's book, police reopened investigations into 24 deaths.

Platt claims seven more families came forward to say they believe Kelly may have killed their family members, bringing the death toll to 31.

That Kelly killed multiple times is not in doubt but exactly how many victims there were may never be known.

### **Kelly's confirmed victims**

While he may have killed more, authorities charged Kelly with five murders in the UK.

His first confirmed victim was Hector Fisher.

He was later arrested over the murder of Edward Toal. Kelly used a piece of rope to garrotte Toal, a fellow homeless man.

In 1977, Kelly was charged over killing vagrant Maurice Weighly (68) in Soho, who was mutilated with a broken bottle. He was later acquitted after it emerged a witness was "blind drunk" at the time of the murder. The witness later disappeared and Kelly claimed he murdered him as well.

Kelly also admitted the murder of William Boyd, whom he strangled in a police cell in 1983.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Eerie footage shows 'ghost' sitting at computer in empty college classroom

By Mike Brown 03:19, 4 APR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Is this a ghost sitting in front of a computer in an empty college classroom?**

**Dozens of students and teachers at the college have queued up to catch a glimpse of the spectre after it was spotted by staff last week**



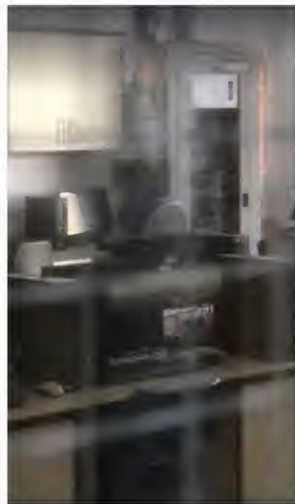
Eerie footage captured in an empty college classroom appears to show a GHOST sitting in front of a computer.

The video shows a semi-transparent is seen floating and sitting attentively in front of a screen at Stockton Riverside College in Thornaby-on-Tees, North Yorkshire.

Dozens of students and teachers at the college have queued up to catch

a glimpse of the spectre after it was spotted by staff last week.

But don't worry, there's an explanation - although it's complicated.



Paul Abley, a games design lecturer at the college, told the Gazette Live :  
"We've had some people come down and look at it, and they've been shocked.

"But simply, it's a reflection in the window from another classroom.

"It's improbable, but if a student is in the other classroom then the light must bounce off about four windows and the door of a server cabinet.

"All the angles are just right, and makes this semi-transparent reflection show up in the perfect place.

"It looks like a ghost and a fair few people have thought it was one, as you don't immediately know where it could have come from.

"Quite a few people get freaked out by it. We've been having a bit of fun with it.

"It's not as if it's a direct reflection, the other classroom is separated from this one by a brick wall. If you're stood looking at the reflection, you wouldn't be able to see the student that's being reflected."

Paul, who has worked at the college for around two years, said the phenomena must have been happening since the college was built but was only noticed last week.

The computer suite, which is in the media and games department, is only in use for around two thirds of every day so is often empty and has its lights switched off - the best time to see the illusion.



And the video caused quite a stir on the college's Facebook page, with one student saying: "I'd be gone if I saw that and never go back." Does this video capture a ghost in an empty college classroom?

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Italy's oldest nun shares tips for a long life on 110th birthday

thelocal.it

The Local

news@thelocal.it

21 February 2017

11:13 CET+01:00



The Local

21 February 2017

11:13 CET+01:00

Candida Bellotti - the oldest living Italian nun -celebrated her 110th birthday on Monday. At her birthday party, she shared some tips for anyone hoping to live an equally long life.

Sister Candida has lived through two world wars, ten popes and 57 prime ministers.

She was born in Verona, and first became a nun in 1931, joining the

order Ministre degli infermi di San Camillo and working as a nurse in hospitals and care homes across the country.

In 2000, at the age of 93, the nun moved to the motherhouse of the convent, where she takes an active part in community life and is known for her lively and joyful attitude.

She celebrated the milestone of reaching 110 with other members of the order and the Bishop of Lucca, Italo Castellani, while Pope Francis sent his birthday wishes.

The pontiff "participated spiritually in the shared joy of the happy anniversary, sending deep congratulations and heartfelt wishes," a blessing sent from the Vatican said. Sister Candida met the pope in 2014 on her 107th birthday, when she joined in a mass at Rome.

But what are her secrets to longevity?

"Take things as they come," she told journalists gathered at the convent for the cake-cutting ceremony.

"Love, love, and keep on loving - with joy!" added Sister Candida, and offered a particular piece of advice to the younger generation. "Have faith in the future, and put in as much work as you can to make your wishes come true."

The nun explained that her own wishes had been fulfilled by carrying out the work of the convent. "Throughout my life, I have always thought to myself: Where God puts me, that is the right place for me," she explained.

One nun in Italy is almost five years her senior: Sister Marie-Josephine Gaudette, who lives in a Rome convent. Gaudette was born in the USA but moved to Italy in the late 1950's, so while Bellotti can claim to be the oldest Italian nun, Gaudette is the oldest nun living in Italy.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Jack O' Lent: The Traditions and Customs of Ash Wednesday and Lent Tide

blogspot.com



Dark Dorset Online Scrapbook is an archive of current and past events relating to local history, folklore and mysteries that can be discovered in the English county of Dorset.

**Wednesday, 5 March 2014**

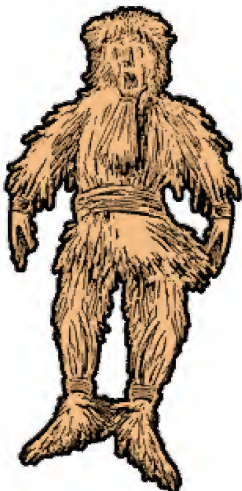
### Jack O' Lent: The Traditions and Customs of Ash Wednesday and Lent Tide

After the fun and frolics of Shrove Tide comes the solemnities of 'Lent Tide'; the period of time which runs from 'Ash Wednesday' to 'Good Friday'. The word 'Lent' derives from an old name for March, 'Lenten Tide', meaning the time when the days lengthen. During Lent Christians traditionally observe forty days of fasting to imitate Christ's miraculous abstinence in the wilderness. In the past the rules of Lent were faithfully observed with only one proper meal allowed per day, yet eggs, dairy produce and wine were strictly forbidden. Sex too, was forbidden during Lent therefore Lent marriages were rare. As one old proverb says: 'Marry in Lent and you'll live to repent!'

#### Weather Lore

'Wherever the wind lies on Ash Wednesday, It continues during all Lent'.

#### Jack-a-Lent



Jack-a- lent

One now defunct custom was the beating up of a 'Jack-a-Lent' or 'Jack-O-Lent'. A Jack-a-Lent was a straw stuffed human effigy which would be dragged and beaten through the streets at the start of Lent and was then hanged from a tree until 'Palm Sunday', when it would be shot to pieces.

The Jack-a-Lent was said to represent Judas but this custom is more likely to have its roots in an age-old ritual of driving out winter. He is mentioned in Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Dorset Folklorist, John Symonds Udal wrote about the customs and traditions of Lent in Dorset in his book *'Dorsetshire Folklore'* published in 1922:-

## **LENT**

*I have already mentioned (p. 21, Pancakes and Football customs) the custom of "Lent-crocking", but I can find no trace existing in Dorsetshire of the old Lenten custom or pastime of throwing cudgels at "jack-o'-lents",—puppets usually stuffed with straw.*

*Barnes, indeed, in his Glossary (1863), p. 65, defines them as "a scarecrow of old clothes, sometimes stuffed", and refers to Fielding,— "who was sometime in Dorset," — as using the name in his Joseph Andrews (chapter ii). Barnes's reference here would appear to indicate that he knew of the word being used only as a scarecrow, and not as a pastime; for Fielding in this passage, in which he alludes to "Jack-o'-Lent" being the modern appellation of the god Priapus, can scarcely have used it as referring to any of that deity's attributes other than an agricultural one, — in this instance that of a "bird-keeper", (See also Barnes's observations in his Fore-say (ante) as to "Jack-a-lent", p. 3.)*

*That the pastime, however, must at one time have prevailed in Dorsetshire is clear from an extract which the late Mr. Thomas Wainwright has given from the "'Cofferers' Accounts" for the year 1574-5 in his Bridport Borough Records (1898), p. 33 :— "Itm paid to Owyn for the making of Jack-a-lent and his hors hire — 4.s."*

*Brand, too, gives references to this practice from various Elizabethan and later dramatists.*

*One of these, from Quarles' Shepherds' Oracles (1646), p. 88, gives the word as used in both senses :—*

*"How like a Jack a Lent  
He stands, for Boys to spend their Shrovetide throws,  
Or like a puppet made to frighten cows."*

*I have no evidence as to how this pastime was carried out in those days; though it is not improbable that it was the direct ancestor of our own modern, and still universally indulged in, amusement of "Aunt Sally".*

Extract below taken from the Chambers Book of Days February 10th 1864, details the tradition of Ash Wednesday.

## **LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY**



*It is an ancient custom of the Christian church to hold as a period of fasting and solemnity the forty days preceding Easter, in commemoration of the miraculous abstinence of Jesus when under temptation. From leaglen-tide, a Saxon term for spring (as being the time of the lengthening of the day), came the familiar word for this period—LENT. Originally, the period began on what is now the first Sunday in Lent; but, it being found that, when Sundays, as improper for fasting, were omitted, there remained only thirty-six days, the period was made by Pope Gregory to commence four days earlier namely, on what has since been called Ash Wednesday. This name was derived from the notable ceremony of the day in the Romish church. It being thought proper to remind the faithful, at commencement of the great penitential season, that they were but dust and ashes, the priests took a quantity of ashes, blessed them, and sprinkled them with holy water.*

*The worshipper then approaching in sack-cloth, the priest took up some of the ashes on the end of his fingers, and made with them the mark of the cross on the worshipper's forehead, saying, Memento, homo, quia cinis es, et in pulverem reverteris (Remember, man, that you are of ashes, and into dust will return). The ashes used were commonly made of the palms consecrated on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. In England, soon after the Reformation, the use of ashes was discontinued, as 'a vain show,' and Ash Wednesday thence became only a day of marked solemnity, with a memorial of its original character in a reading of the curses denounced against impenitent sinners.*

*The popular observances on Ash Wednesday are not of much account. The cocks being now dispatched, a thin scare-crow-like figure or puppet was set up, and shied at with sticks, in imitation of one of the sports of the preceding day. The figure was called a Jake-a-lent, a term which is often met with in old literature, as expressive of a small and insignificant person. Beaumont and Fletcher, in one of their plays, make a character say:*

*If I forfeit, Make me a Jack o' Lent and break my shins*

*For untamed points and counters.'*

*Boys used to go about clacking at doors, to get eggs or bits of bacon wherewith to make up a feast among themselves; and when refused, would stop the keyhole with dirt, and depart with a rhymed denunciation. In some parts of Germany, the young men gathered the girls into a cart, and drove them into a river or pool, and there 'washed them favouredly,'—a process which shews that abstinence from merriment was not there held as one of the proprieties of the day.*

*'Among the ancient customs of this country which have sunk into disuse, was a singularly absurd one, continued even to so late a period as the reign of George I. During the Lenten season, an officer denominated the 'King's Cock Crones' crowed the hour each night, within the precincts of the Palace, instead of proclaiming it in the ordinary manner of watchmen.' On the first Ash, Wednesday after the accession of the House of Hanover, as the Prince of Wales, afterwards George II, sat down to supper, this officer abruptly entered the apartment, and according to accustomed usage, proclaimed in a sound resembling the shrill pipe of a cock, that it was "past ten o'clock." Taken by surprise, and imperfectly acquainted with the English language, the astonished prince*

*naturally mistook the tremulation of the assumed crow, as some mockery intended to insult him, and instantly rose to resent the affront: nor was it without difficulty that the interpreter explained the nature of the custom, and satisfied him, that a compliment was designed, according to the court etiquette of the time. From that period we find no further account of the exertion of the imitative powers of this important officer: but the court has been left to the voice of reason and conscience, to remind them of their errors, and not to that of the cock, whose clarion called back Peter to repentance, which this fantastical and silly ceremony was meant to typify.'—Brady*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Jackson Hole ski instructor impales face on branch

idahostatejournal.com



- By Shelbie Harris sharris@journalnet.com
- Mar 5, 2017



Those familiar with the skiing pastime of Gaffney's Numerical Assessment of Radness, or the game of G.N.A.R, know that calling your mom before taking the next line naked and stopping mid-run for a bathroom break is a surefire way to win the game.

But when 29-year-old Natty Hagood, a ski instructor for Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Wyoming, impaled his face on a branch while trying to jump between two trees, he called it a game-breaker.

"When I laugh, I have to hold the left side of my face down at this weird angle that makes me look like this crotchety old man," he said. "And I

drool more than I used to."

Hagood said the image of the stick stuck through his lip is still one of the most gnarly things he's ever seen.

His 15 minutes of fame didn't start at the impalement, however, as his Internet notoriety started a week prior when video surfaced of him breaking up a mid-mountain brawl.

A verbal altercation at the terrain park escalated into a fight at the bottom of the mountain near the Casper lift line. Hagood saw a disorderly snowboarder punching a fellow skier, who called out for ski patrol, before jumping between the two.

"Being the individual that I am, be it my sense of right or wrong, my size or my huge holistic background, I wasn't afraid to step in put the kibosh on the violence," said Hagood, who is originally from Spokane, Washington, but has lived and worked at Jackson Hole the past three years now. "I'm the guy in the Jackson Hole jacket and pink hat saying, 'Violence is not the answer, man.'"

On the day of his injury, he was boarding with his roommate, Pete, and another woman from out of town who they were showing around the mountain.

"I was coming down Thunder and it was our first run of the day," he said. "I had made the first five turns and was coming back to lift line when I saw a gap between two trees. With my experience, you can bash between trees and it's not that big of a deal. But this time I guess I didn't get away with it."

Hagood collided through the trees, which knocked him off balance, and he tumbled through the snow.

"I thought maybe my chinstrap got pushed up into my face, so I tried to brush it off and that's when I felt the stick," he said. "So, I shook left to right and saw the stick moving in my peripherals. I reached out and grabbed it and wiggled it before realizing it was pretty far in there."

That was when Hagood had his first aha-moment. He said, "Holy crap, I just got impaled. And then I yelled over to Pete, 'Hey look I got a new piercing.'"

Apparently, the incident occurred so quickly that Hagood experienced zero pain from the impalement, which left an 18-inch long timber branch gouged through one side of his lip and sticking out the other.

Ski patrol said that he needed to brace it before riding down.



"It was initially about a foot and half long," Hagood said. "But I braced it against my cheek and snapped it down to about 6 inches. Ski patrol was all like, 'You're crazy, man.'"

Ski patrol wrapped it, stabilized it by securing the stick to his face and loaded him up into the sled before transporting him to the bottom of the mountain.

The true pain set in once he got to the hospital, but it wasn't from the tree branch sticking out of his face.

"The most painful part of the experience was the numbing shots from the hospital," he said. "Then they cut the top-left section of my lip near the exit-wound, trimmed the back half and pulled it through."

After a quick rinsing, Hagood — now referred to by his students and the local community as "Lipstick" or "Sticky" — left the hospital not only with 15 stitches in his face, but also with a hospital bill close to \$1,500.

To help with the funds he started a GoFundMe page, which is accessible by visiting [www.gofundme.com/please-help-me-pay-for-my-new-lip](http://www.gofundme.com/please-help-me-pay-for-my-new-lip). As of Saturday evening, the page has raised over \$1,100.

Reduced to drinking beer from a straw, Hagood said the experience has left him with a bit of "PTS-Tree," but the outpouring of support, including one donor giving \$100 on the condition that "Lipstick" gets a new haircut, has been unreal.

He's thankful for the kindness and generosity from ski instructors across the country and from complete strangers, but also said the feedback hasn't all been positive.

"I don't know where they're from or what their ideologies are, but some people have said that's the problem with America is that people need to suck it up and pay for their own stuff," Hagood said. "Some people have been vocal about what I'm doing is distasteful or irresponsible and I'm not taking credit for my own actions."

He continued, "It's made me have some interesting thoughts, but I certainly don't feel bad asking people in the community to pitch in \$10 so that I don't have this crippling expense."

© Copyright 2017 Idaho State Journal, 305 S. Arthur Pocatello, ID

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Japanese castle seeks lord and lady for one night - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 

6 April 2017

- 

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-39514095>



Image copyrightWikimedia/Frank Gualtieri

A guesthouse company in Japan is offering one couple a chance to experience a night as lord and lady of Hirado Castle, in an attempt to attract tourists to the area, The Mainichi website reports.

Couples applying for the chance to do so have to comprise a man and woman and be at least 20 years old.

The winners not only get to stay the

night in the castle tower, they will be guarded by city officials dressed as ninjas and met by 30 volunteers dressed in full armour. They will also be served a dinner made from local ingredients, the website says.

The current Hirado Castle in Nagasaki Prefecture was built in the 1960s. It currently houses a museum of artefacts from the local Matsura clan, who first built a fortress on the site in 1599 and ruled the area for two and a half centuries.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Japan's elderly offered funeral discount to stop driving - BBC News

bbc.com

Elderly drivers in Japan are being offered discounts on funeral services if they agree to surrender their licences, it's reported.

The Japanese authorities have been trying to encourage older people to give up driving after a recent spate of accidents, some of which involved drivers confusing the accelerator and the brake pedals. The latest incentive is in the central Aichi Prefecture, where a company that runs 89 funeral homes is offering a 15% discount for those who give up their licences, Kyodo news service reports.

Anyone wanting to take advantage of it has to provide evidence that they have handed in their licence at the local police station, which is supporting the initiative. The discount can be extended to family members, including those who live outside the prefecture, the report says.

In 2015, there were almost 4.8 million licence holders over the age of 75, according to The Japan Times, twice as many as a decade earlier. The same period saw an increase in the number of fatal collisions involving elderly drivers.

Similar incentive-based schemes are operating elsewhere in Japan, although most aren't quite so morbid - some involve cheaper taxi rides or cut-price entry to public baths. The funeral home initiative is also quite a contrast to another offer announced in Aichi in November, whereby elderly locals could tuck into cut-price noodles if they surrendered their driving licences.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## BREAKING NEWS



Trump sought to shift his tone during his first address to Congress. Watch reaction on CNN

U.S. +

Live TV



0:06 / 1:17



Source: [WXIN](#)

## Jesus statue beheaded twice in 2 weeks 01:17

### Story highlights

The statue stands outside Cottage Avenue Pentecostal Fellowship in Indianapolis

Pastor: "It's still headless, we haven't gotten it fixed yet"

**(CNN)** — To millions of people, the image of Jesus Christ stands for peace, love, and compassion.

So it's a little startling to see a statue of Jesus outside an Indiana church defaced twice in the past two weeks. Once on a Sunday, even.

The Cottage Avenue Pentecostal Fellowship in Indianapolis installed the concrete statue five years ago after it was donated by the daughter of one of its members. But on the statue's first day in its new home, the church saw a glimpse of the vandalism to come.

## BREAKING NEWS



Trump sought to shift his tone during his first address to Congress. Watch reaction on CNN

U.S. +

Live TV



The Jesus statue stands outside the Cottage Avenue Pentecostal Fellowship before the vandalism.

"The first time we put it up, they knocked it over," Pastor Brad Flaskamp told CNN. The statue was put back in place and the church thought no more of it for years, he said.

Until two weeks ago, when churchgoers discovered their familiar Jesus in an unfamiliar state. Someone had beheaded the statue.

Luckily, Jesus' head was left behind and the church was able to reattach it on Saturday. But the next day, vandals struck again.

And this time, they took the head with them.



Although the statue is only 5 years old, the church has stood in Indianapolis for about a century.

"It's still headless, we haven't gotten it fixed yet," said Flaskamp, adding that the rest of the statue remained standing outside the church. "Don't know if we can."

An investigation has been underway since the first beheading two weeks ago. But with no surveillance footage of the incidents, police are relying on information from the public.

Flaskamp, perhaps mindful of Jesus' teachings on forgiveness, is hoping for a friendlier resolution.

"If whoever it is would come in and return the head and ask us to forgive him, we'd forgive him," he said. "That's what it's all about."

**BREAKING NEWS**



Trump sought to shift his tone during his first address to Congress. Watch reaction on CNN

U.S. +

Live TV



## Man puts the fun into funeral with 200mph jet-powered hearse

metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 4 Apr 2017 7:35 pm



(Picture: SWNS)

A British inventor is going to test-drive a truly terrifying vehicle: a 200mph jet-powered hearse which is called 'Dead Quick'.

Matt McKeown, 56, already holds the title for the world's fastest shopping trolley after he attached a jet engine and hit 70mph.

Matt owns a pair of 1950s jet engines and has spent the past 18 months

shoehorning one of them into the back of a black hearse.

The jet turbine has around 1,750lb of thrust and Matt is hoping to drive at more than 200mph later this summer.



Man puts the fun into funeral with 200mph jet-powered hearse

(Picture: SWNS)



Man puts the fun into funeral with 200mph jet-powered hearse

(Picture: SWNS)

It will make its official debut at this Sunday's Prescott Bike Festival on Sunday 9 April in

Gloucestershire where petrolheads will be raising money for the charity Blood Bikes.

Matt, who runs Plymouth Karting in Devon, said: 'My hobby is extreme engineering where I take something which is inherently mundane like the shopping trolley or the hearse and stick a jet engine in it.

(Picture: SWNS)

'I get the idea in my head and I have to act straight away so I went online and bought the Granada hearse for around £1,200.

'The turbine is a Rolls-Royce viper turbine, sourced from a 1950s Provost jet used by the RAF. It has around 1,750 lb of thrust and I am expecting it to do 200mph.



'We've been working on it on-and-off for around 18 months now, we must have put 300 hours into it.'

*Man puts the fun into funeral with 200mph jet-powered hearse*

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man carrying a sword, dressed as Joker arrested in Virginia

yahoo.com

**AP** This photo provided by the Winchester Police Department shows Jeremy Putman, who police in Winchester, Va., arrested Friday, March 24, 2017, after callers reported seeing him walking, wearing a cape, carrying a sword and made up as the Batman villain the Joker. Authorities charged Putman with wearing a mask in public, a felony that can result in a sentence of a year in jail. (Winchester Police Department via AP)

WINCHESTER, Va. (AP) — Police in Virginia have arrested a man who was dressed as comic book villain the Joker and reportedly carrying a sword.

Winchester Police Department spokeswoman Jennifer Hall said in a news release that the department got several 911 calls Friday afternoon reporting a man made up as Batman's nemesis. He was wearing a cape and carrying a sword.

Thirty-one-year-old Jeremy Putman has been charged with wearing a mask in public, a felony that can result in a year in jail.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Putman has a lawyer.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Tourist trying to jump onto statue in Spain gets a dose of instant karma upi.com

---



A tourist tries to jump onto a waterfront statue in a Spanish coastal town. Screenshot: Storyful

March 1 (UPI) -- A U.S. tourist's ill-fated attempt to jump over water to reach a statue in a Spanish coastal town was caught on camera by an amused local.

Christian Stefan Molocia posted a video to Facebook showing the man, who he identified as a tourist from the United States, preparing to jump to a waterfront statue a few feet from

shore Monday in Alicante.

The statue, El Regreso De Icaro, depicts the character Icarus from Greek mythology.

The man takes a leap and reaches the statue, but promptly slips and falls into the water.

The tourist's karmic moment elicited laughter from numerous onlookers.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Florida man accused of jumping naked out of van

actionnewsjax.com

•

by: Sarah Elsesser, Palm Beach Post Updated: Mar 3, 2017 - 2:45 PM



### VERO BEACH, Fla. - A

Florida man was arrested after being found naked in a Steller Transportation work van with a fire extinguisher.

### >> Read more trending stories

Police responded to a call at a Vero Beach Bank of America on Tuesday and the naked man jumped out of the van

and starting yelling, according to the Sebastian Daily.

Crayton Coursey, 65, told police he worked for Steller Transportation and he had permission to use the van. The owner of the company told officers Coursey did not have permission.

This is not Coursey's first time allegedly stealing a form of transportation. In January, the man took a motorized shopping cart from a Publix before crashing it at a medical center, the Daily reported.

Coursey is charged with felony burglary of auto.

Read more at the Sebastian Daily.

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

*(Joe Burbank/Orlando Sentinel via AP)*

## Kids having a kick-about flee in terror after a GOBLIN sneaks up on their pitch

thescottishsun.co.uk

A GROUP of kids say they are too terrified to play football anymore after spotting what they believe was a goblin during a kickabout.

The youngsters spotted the strange creature beside their makeshift pitch in the city of Santiago del Estero in northern Argentina.



*A group of kids fled in terror after they thought a goblin was sneaking up on their kick about*

2

A group of kids fled in terror after they thought a goblin was sneaking up on their kick about

An eyewitness was filming the children playing footy on a smartphone and captured the unidentified beast on camera.

The bizarre-looking creature lumbers awkwardly onto the sandy pitch, with its goals made out of wooden sticks, making the kids flee in terror.

The children can be heard screaming in the video as they run off towards their homes in the Don Bosco III neighbourhood of the city.

Local media also described the strange figure as a goblin and reported that the children's parents said that they were too frightened to return to their pitch to play football.

One mother described it as a "paranormal phenomenon".

Goblins are monstrous mythical creatures first mentioned in European folklore in the Middle Ages.



*The creature appeared at the side of their makeshift pitch in Argentina*

2

The creature appeared at the side of their makeshift pitch in Argentina

They are usually described as small and grotesque, mischievous or evil, and greedy, especially for gold and jewellery. They often have magical abilities.

Santiago del Estero was the first city founded by Spanish settlers in the territory that is now Argentina and is nicknamed the Mother of Cities.

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce

material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }





## EDUCATION

## GIRL, 5, SUSPENDED FOR PLAYING WITH 'STICK GUN'

EMBED &lt;/&gt;

MORE NEWS VIDEOS

Caitlin Miller, 5, was suspended from kindergarten for playing with this stick.

By [Morgan Norwood](#)

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 08:43AM

HOKE COUNTY (WTVD) -- A local mother is outraged after her 5-year-old daughter was suspended from school because of a stick that resembled a gun.

**ABC11 EyewitnessNews**

@ABC11\_WTVD

[Follow](#)

POLL: Should 5-year-old girl be suspended for playing with 'stick gun'? [abc11.com/1823430/](http://abc11.com/1823430/)

5:21 AM - 29 Mar 2017

☐ Yes☐ No**Vote**

890 votes • 10 hours left

12

5

Caitlin Miller returned to school Tuesday after her one-day suspension.

It started Friday when her mother got a call from the principal about a playground incident. Caitlin explained that she and her two friends were using their imaginations, playing "King and Queen."



**Morgan Norwood**  
@MorganABC11

Follow

5 yr old Caitlin Miller returns home after her first day back from suspension over playing with stick that looked like a gun. #abc11

12:45 PM - 28 Mar 2017

7

10

In this case, Caitlin was the guard protecting the royals and picked up the gun to imitate shooting an intruder into the kingdom.

Hoke County Schools said Caitlin posed a threat to other students when she made a shooting motion, thus violating policy 4331.

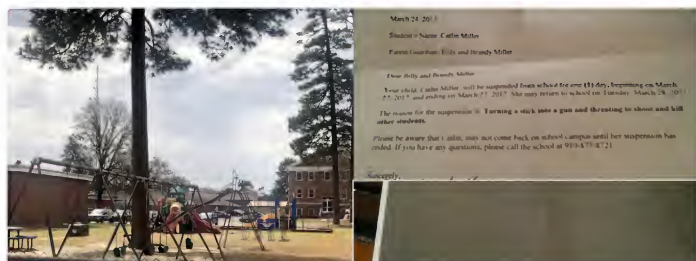


Caitlin Miller, 5, was suspended from kindergarten for playing with this stick.

"Hoke County Schools will not tolerate assaults, threats or harassment from any student. Any student engaging in such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning," the school system says.

While Caitlin's mother says she understands the school's policy on the matter, explaining it to her 5-year-old was a different story.

"We know why it's bad. We watch the news, but then I have to tell my kid you're not allowed to play like that in school because people do bad things to kids your age," Brandy Miller said.





**Morgan Norwood**  
@MorganABC11

Follow

This is the playground where a 5 yr. old found a stick that school officials say resembled a gun. She was suspended for a day.

#abc11

8:52 AM - 28 Mar 2017

8 9

Miller says Caitlin was alienated by her friends and teachers as a result of the suspension. She hopes that the school will issue some sort of apology to her daughter.

Hoke County School Superintendent Freddie Williamson is aware of the incident.

Related Topics:

education children Hoke County News school safety kindergarten

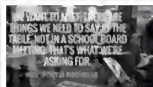
(Copyright ©2017 WTVD-TV. All Rights Reserved.)

LOAD COMMENTS

## EDUCATION



**Kids learn about farming, agriculture at NC State**  
Updated 2 hrs 33 mins ago



**NAACP still waiting on meeting with Wake County Schools**



**Disney helps make magic of books come alive for Durham kids**



**District aims to lure quality teachers to Franklin Co.**

MORE EDUCATION

## TOP STORIES



**Lawmakers cancel evening session as HB2 deadline looms**  
Updated 30 mins ago



**NC senior citizens scammed out of millions**



## UK's most tattooed man helps police find footballer's stolen car

14:09 EDT, 26 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

- King of Ink, otherwise known as Mathew Whelan, saw the vehicle in his car park
- The Birmingham City fan was delighted to help fellow supporter Troy Deeney
- The Watford striker was blasted by fans for

getting the extravagant car

By Fionn Hargreaves For Mailonline



The UK's most tattooed man, the 'King of Ink Land' helped police find Watford striker Troy Deeney's stolen £180,000 Lamborghini

The UK's most tattooed man helped police to track down Watford striker Troy Deeney's stolen £180,000 Lamborghini.

The 'King of Ink Land', otherwise known as Mathew Whelan, 37, called officers when he saw the vehicle outside his secure car park in Birmingham.

He said: 'I called 101 West Midlands Police and reported a suspicious individual by our secure car park and challenged him.

'It was around 15 to 20 minutes when I noticed a police car arrive, then another one and then another three.

'I gave the police my security electronic key so they could gain access and we then found Troy Deeney's stolen Lamborghini.

'We're both Birmingham city fans so I am delighted that it will be returned to him.

'I just hope they catch the people that have committed crimes against someone who I have a lot of respect for, especially his rise from where he has come from to where he is now.'



The King of Ink Land, from Birmingham, spotted the expensive car by his private car park and called West Midlands Police

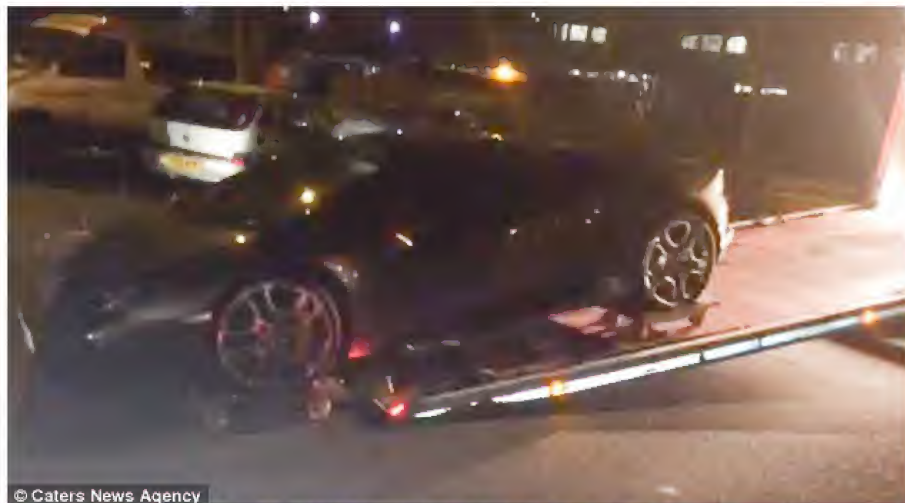
Troy Deeney's car being stolen is the latest dramatic turn in the professional footballer's life

The Premier League striker who has a tattoo of his boyhood club, Birmingham City FC on his leg, was blasted by fans for boasting about his luxury birthday purchase last Summer.

The number '9' was alleged to have been involved in a violent feud in February outside a Birmingham

nightclub where it was claimed he was threatened by Police with pepper spray.

The stolen vehicle is the latest dramatic turn in the professional footballer's life, five years on from a ten month prison sentence for his part in an attack on a group of students in Birmingham.



The Premier League striker was blasted by fans for boasting about his luxury birthday purchase (pictured) last Summer

The King of Ink said he was only too glad to help a fellow Birmingham City fan. Deeney famously got a tattoo of his boyhood club on his leg. Pictured, the Lamborghini

King of Ink said: 'The man span me a tale about his friend and then drove off when he thought I had gone in but something didn't sit right with me, hence wanting to log the incident.



'After reporting the incident to 101 I thought nothing more as I believed I would pick it up with the community police team the following day.

'Being one of three directors of the developments residential committee I always have the best intentions for the development because we've had various crimes here over the past several years.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

« Rick Joyner Says (Without Proof) That Hundreds of People Have Been Resurrected At His Church

Tasmanian Family Won't Pay Taxes on Their Properties Because They Say the Land Belongs to God »

## Gordon Klingenschmitt: "Demonic Spirits" Are Using *Beauty and the Beast* to Turn Kids Gay

March 14, 2017 (2017-03-14T10:00:44+00:00) by Hemant Mehta<<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/author/hemant-mehta/>>

**Gordon Klingenschmitt**, former Colorado State House member and conservative Christian talk show, recently said [demonic spirits were the reason](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2017/03/11/gordon-klingenschmitt-exposure-to-the-ten-commandments-would-free-atheists-from-demonic-influence/) atheists sued over a Ten Commandments monument outside a public high school.

Apparently, those same spirits are using the new live action *Beauty and the Beast* film to "[recruit children into sin](http://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/gordon-klingenschmitt-demonic-spirits-are-using-beauty-and-the-beast-to-recruit-children-into-homosexuality/)."

Which means he's falling for the lie that having a gay character in the movie amounts to *promoting the homosexual agenda* which means turning kids gay... a slippery slope that shouldn't make a damn bit of sense to anyone.





## Gordon Klingenschmitt: Demonic Spirits Are Using 'Beauty And T...



”

Disney and those involved in the production of this movie are being **driven by demonic spirits to “intentionally [promote] sin to children,”** he warned.

“There is destruction in the future of these people who cooperate with that evil,”

Klingenschmitt said, as **he prayed that God will “stop the recruiting of our children into the sinful lifestyle of homosexuality”** and that Americans will finally “wake up and boycott the Disney corporation,” which he claimed has been “using money to fund the gay agenda for decades.”

“

It’s amazing how Disney plans to turn kids gay by showing them a love story between woman and an animal that involves a side character who happens to have feelings for his alpha male friend.

If that’s all it takes to change someone’s sexual orientation, then I have no idea why conservative Christians have been going through all the trouble of gay conversion therapy. They could’ve just shown victims *Sausage Party* and been done with it.

(via [Right Wing Watch](http://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/gordon-klingenschmitt-demonic-spirits-are-using-beauty-and-the-beast-to-recruit-children-into-homosexuality/)<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/gordon-klingenschmitt-demonic-spirits-are-using-beauty-and-the-beast-to-recruit-children-into-homosexuality/>)

## Related posts from Friendly Atheist:

(Humanists to FL County Officials: Rescinding an Atheist's Invocation Invite Was Unconstitutional)

Humanists to FL County Officials: Rescinding an

(Non-Religious Voters are Transforming the Political Landscape in Good and Bad Ways)

Non-Religious Voters are Transforming the

(No, Andrew Sullivan, Intersectionality is Not a Religion)

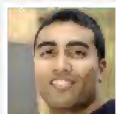
No, Andrew Sullivan, Intersectionality is Not a Religion(No,

(Trumpcare: Liberal Redneck Edition)

Trumpcare: Liberal Redneck Edition(Trumpcare: Liberal Redneck Edition)

« [Rick Joyner Says \(Without Proof\) That Hundreds of People Have Been Resurrected At His Church](#)

[Tasmanian Family Won't Pay Taxes on Their Properties Because They Say the Land Belongs to God »](#)



#### About Hemant Mehta

**Hemant Mehta** is the editor of Friendly Atheist, appears on the [Atheist Voice](#)

channel<<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheAtheistVoice/>> on YouTube, and co-hosts the uniquely-named [Friendly Atheist Podcast](#)<<http://friendlyatheistpodcast.com/>>. You can read much [more about him here](#)<<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/about-the-contributors/>>.

169 Comments

Friendly Atheist

Lady Krampus ▾

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...



**Tawreos** • 13 hours ago

I am so surprised that I have made it to my 40's and am still gay. I am not sure how I managed to avoid seeing any heterosexual flirting or relationships in 40 years, but somehow I managed it. Or maybe seeing a different type of relationship has no damn bearing on me whatsoever.

40 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**islandbrewer** → Tawreos • 13 hours ago

Muahaha! You will now be targeted by the Heterosexual Agenda!

We will expose you to images of men kissing ... WOMEN!

Your media will be filled with portrayals of heterosexual couples, ACTING NORMAL, in order to "normalize" their heterosexual behavior.

They will flaunt their heterosexuality in front of you, IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!

Soon, positions of power will be filled with heterosexuals, including the teachers that teach children, in order to indoctrinate them into the ... HETEROSEXUAL AGENDA. ('DA '... Da ... 'da ... 'da... 'da [/end echo effect])

Edit: I'm being told that's already been done. Well, guess I have the afternoon free, now.

19 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Tawreos** → islandbrewer • 12 hours ago

If you expose me to this you will force me to become more fierce and fabulous than you can possibly believe.

14 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Whitney Currie** → Tawreos • 2 hours ago



Um, can I sell tickets? I need to pay the mortgage this month.

;)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**J.D.** → islandbrewer • 9 hours ago

Do tomorrow's work today. Save the spare time for the movie release! :)

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**ephemerol** → Tawreos • 13 hours ago

And how did you manage to avoid all those heterosexual movies and TV shows?

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Tawreos** → ephemerol • 13 hours ago

I must have an undiscovered super power.

12 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Brad Feaker** → Tawreos • 13 hours ago

It's the power of the gay agenda ya' know? It is unstoppable :)

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**CanuckAmuck** → Brad Feaker • 13 hours ago



17 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Notagain Persistent NastyWoman** → CanuckAmuck • 12 hours ago

They keep calling it a lifestyle, oh goodness how different an lifestyle it is from mine.

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NOGODZ20** → CanuckAmuck • 12 hours ago

\*sounds of sinister music\*



6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**James** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

### Nude Organist



6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**NOGODZ20** → James • 12 hours ago

I was thinking more

### Dramatic Chipmunk



7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Brad Feaker** → CanuckAmuck • 10 hours ago

Horrifying! Absolutely horrifying. Why do 'those people' have to live such normal, productive lives dammit...

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**J.D.** → CanuckAmuck • 9 hours ago

But do they host brunch?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Tawreos** → Brad Feaker • 13 hours ago

The problem with the gay agenda is that its first rule is that no gay person is supposed to know what the agenda is.

14 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**J.D.** → Tawreos • 9 hours ago

It's kind of like Feminism. Though the GOP swears they know what the agenda for both is.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**BillyDee4** → Tawreos • 8 hours ago



Obviously the person who recruited you forgot to give you the Gay Handbook. It's all in there.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**wylekat** → BillyDee4 • 3 hours ago

I thought it was the handbook for the recently fabulous.

(Think Beetlejuice)

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Brad Feaker** → Tawreos • 10 hours ago

I have a secret pass - I married a bisexual lady :) But I still do not get the juicy secrets - like the ultimate time table for world domination.

But I am trying :)

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Raging Bee** → Brad Feaker • 13 hours ago

Nonsense. The Gay Agenda only has power when you open it in Microsoft Project. And even then, you have to change all the text color to purple, and have the rows' background color alternate between mauve and fuschia, before you can see the really devious secret stuff. Oh, and un-hide row #666.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Tawreos** → Raging Bee • 12 hours ago

There are two rules in life 1 is do not look in the drawers of the night stand , the other is never un-hide row #666

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kevin K** → Tawreos • 13 hours ago

Maybe you didn't see that Sandra Bullock movie. That'll turn you straight for sure.

Or maybe it was the one with Jennifer Lawrence.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Tawreos** → Kevin K • 13 hours ago

And ruin my beautiful gayness? No thank you =)

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**John Pieret** → Tawreos • 12 hours ago

Thank goodness your parents never took you to a Disney movie with a [shudder] openly *heterosexual* character in it!

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Fromper** → John Pieret • 12 hours ago

Like the original Beauty and the Beast cartoon! No, wait, that was just interspecies romance. Is there a word for that, like when a candlestick dates a feather duster?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NathairNimheil** → Kevin K • 12 hours ago

I'm pretty sure Sandra Bullock movies would turn lesbians straight if anything could.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**J.D.** → NathairNimheil • 9 hours ago



Nope. She only teaches you to S.I.N.G....and love fluffy puppies. As you can see, I was doomed.



[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kevin K** • 13 hours ago



Outrage at inclusion of gay character in film about woman-buffalo romance



**Cerian Jenkins** ✓  
@CerianJenkins

[Follow](#)

Headline writing skills 🐾

6:39 AM - 5 Mar 2017 · Poplar, London

↩️ ↻️ 561 ❤️ 955

16 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Akira625** ➔ Kevin K • 11 hours ago

Why don't these Fundies take issue with the bestiality and Stockholm Syndrome overtones?

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**aikidaves** ➔ Akira625 • 11 hours ago

Didn't you know? Those are effects of the Gay Agenda! That's the root cause that must be dealt with first.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Whitney Currie** ➔ Akira625 • 2 hours ago

Well, the Stockholm Syndrome stuff is pretty much what they like if



you read their religious text, and since it's a woman/animal thing, it's not actually sex.

Something like that, anyway. Women don't matter to them, remember?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**islandbrewer** → Kevin K • 13 hours ago

Thanks a lot! You just made me google buffalo porn!

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NOGODZ20** → islandbrewer • 12 hours ago

Asian or American?

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Raging Bee** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

Russian?

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**John Pieret** → Raging Bee • 12 hours ago

Northern New York.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Raging Bee** → John Pieret • 12 hours ago

Uptown Buffalo Funk?

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NOGODZ20** → Raging Bee • 12 hours ago

It's a buffalo in Asia but in North America they're called bison. :)

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kevin K** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

There's a town in North(?) Dakota called "Bison"...it's where the buffalo roam.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NOGODZ20** → Kevin K • 12 hours ago

Do the deer and the antelope play there, too?

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kevin K** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

Undoubtedly.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**J.D.** → Kevin K • 9 hours ago

Bison: The NDSU mascot. Hail the Bison!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**E.A. Blair** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

But the Asian and North American buffalos/bison are two different animals - it's not just a matter of nomenclature.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**islandbrewer** → E.A. Blair • 10 hours ago

And don't get me started on North American vs. European "elk"!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NOGODZ20** → E.A. Blair • 12 hours ago

Exactly.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Bricabrac** → NOGODZ20 • 9 hours ago

Noo Yawk.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**CanuckAmuck** → NOGODZ20 • 12 hours ago

Well, the Asian ones are non-migratory.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**islandbrewer** → CanuckAmuck • 10 hours ago

Can they carry coconuts?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**CanuckAmuck** → islandbrewer • 10 hours ago

If they grip it by the husk...

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Raging Bee** → islandbrewer • 12 hours ago

Wow, totally TMI! That's on you, dude...

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

[Load more comments](#)

[Subscribe](#) [Add Disqus to your site](#) [Add Disqus](#) [Add](#) [Privacy](#)

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: [More info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Hide on this page](#)

## 'Iron Crotch Kung Fu Master' shows off ability to take groin hits

upi.com



"Iron Crotch Kung Fu Master" Wei Yaobin hits himself in the groin with a brick. Screenshot: Newsflare

Feb. 24 (UPI) -- A Chinese martial artist shared video of he and his students taking repeated blows to the groin as means of promoting his unusual form of kung fu.

Master Wei Yaobin, known as the "Iron Crotch Kung Fu Master," appeared in a video alongside some of his students taking strong kicks to the groin, as well as being hit in the

privates with objects including bricks and a battering ram.

Wei claims his form of kung fu can help men overcome erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation.

The master said he previously only taught his form of kung fu, which he has been practicing for 10 years in the city of Luoyang, to family members, but he is now seeking to make his "Iron Crotch" methods more widespread.

"We want it to be more popular and accepted by public," Wei told AsiaOne.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Mount Etna: BBC crew caught up in volcano blast - BBC News

bbc.com

**BBC** Media caption Moment BBC crew caught in Etna eruption

A BBC team and a number of tourists have suffered minor injuries after being caught up in an incident on the erupting volcano Mount Etna in Sicily.

"Many injured - some head injuries, burns, cuts and bruises," tweeted BBC science reporter Rebecca Morelle.

Lava flow mixed with steam had caused a huge explosion, which pelted the group with boiling rocks and steam, she said.

About eight people had been injured, with some evacuated from the mountain by rescue teams, she added.



**Rebecca Morelle**   
@BBCMorelle

 Follow

Image  
copyright  
Heather  
Sharp

Running down a mountain pelted by rocks,  
dodging burning boulders and boiling steam -  
not an experience I ever ever want to repeat (8)

RETWEETS  
2

LIKE  
1



"Bbc team  
all ok -  
some cuts/  
bruises and  
burns. Very  
shaken  
though - it  
was  
extremely  
scary," she

relayed in one of a series of tweets as she ran down the mountain.

The BBC reporter said a volcanologist at the scene told her it was the most dangerous incident he had experienced in his 30-year-career.



*Mount Etna is Europe's tallest active volcano*

Image copyright AP  
Image caption

She said a guide had suffered a dislocated shoulder, while a 78-year-old woman had been very close to the blast, but managed to get away safely.

Members of the group ran away from the blast, trying to reach the safety of a snow mobile, she added.

Image copyright Rebecca Morelle

**Lava ran into snow - Jonathan Amos, BBC science correspondent**

Etna is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. That makes it a big draw not only for the scientists who want to understand better how these mountains work, but also for tourists who want to be amazed by a spectacular show of fire.

But you do not just wander up the mountain. If you're a reporter, you go with an experienced science team; if you're a tourist, you go with guides who are familiar with the sights and sounds that spell danger.

But even so, a volcano can often do something that catches everyone by surprise.



Rebecca Morelle  
@BBCMorelle



Back at hotel now after Etna explosion. Here's  
@NewsCamerawoman with the massive hole a lump of rock  
burnt through her coat.  
4:35 PM - 16 Mar 2017

In this case a flow of lava ran into snow, producing superheated steam that sent fragments of rock flying in all directions. Everyone counts themselves lucky to have escaped with just cuts and bruises.

Rebecca Morelle's team was on site filming for a report about advances in volcano monitoring. What happened illustrates just how much we still need to learn about these mountains.

Everyone had been taken from the mountain by a team of rescue workers who were "brilliant", Ms Morelle said.

### Footage from Thursday shows Etna spewing rock into the air

Media captionFootage from Thursday shows Etna spewing rock into the air

The Catania operation centre of Italy's volcanology institute confirmed that three of its volcanologists had been on the mountain when the explosion took place, and said some had suffered injuries, but gave no detail.

Mount Etna, which is Europe's tallest active volcano, spewed lava up into the sky in the early hours of Thursday morning, for the third time in three weeks.

Image caption

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

Image copyright Copernicus Sentinel data (2017)/ESA

## Volcano watchers in Hawaii trekked dangerously close to Kilauea's lava — and got caught

2017-03-14

latimes.com

If you're thinking about straying beyond the boundaries to get a closer look at the lava flow from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, think again.

A group of tourists faces fines after rangers found them in an out-of-bounds area close to the erupting Kilauea volcano on Hawaii Island.

The 13 visitors, who were part of a tour group, were ticketed in the March 6 incident and asked to leave the park. Park rangers said the tour group specializes in up-close-and-personal encounters with volcanoes all over the globe.

The citations for entering a closed area carry fines of \$100. The tour guide faces additional charges that carry stiffer fines and potential jail time.



The observation deck of Jaggar Museum, about a mile from the crater rim, is the nearest spot from which park visitors can safely observe the active volcano.

The observation deck of Jaggar Museum, about a mile from the crater rim, is the nearest spot from which park visitors can safely observe the active volcano.

The observation deck of Jaggar Museum, about a mile from the crater rim, is the nearest spot from which park visitors can safely observe the active volcano.

which park visitors can safely observe the active volcano. (National Park Service)

On Dec. 31, 26 acres of land, called a lava delta, collapsed into the ocean. Less than a half-an-hour before the collapse, five tourists had strayed onto the site, CBS News reported. Rangers chased them back.

In the March 6 incident, tourists were at Halemaumau crater at summit of the Kilauea volcano. An eruption there in August sent molten lava and volcanic rock hurtling nearly 300 feet beyond the crater rim, destroying scientific equipment.

Since 1990, five visitors have died in off-limits areas. Hyperthermia and inhalation of lung-searing steam were among the causes of death.

Kilauea began erupting again in 1983. Its lava flow has added nearly a square mile of land mass to Hawaii Island.

Two of the four most destructive volcanic eruptions in history have occurred in what is now Indonesia. In 1815, Mt. Tambora erupted, killing about 92,000 people as a result of the blast and the ensuing destruction of food sources. In 1883, Krakatoa erupted. Its caldera collapsed and took with it nearly nine square miles of land. About 36,000 people died.



In 1902, Mt. Pelee in Martinique exploded, killing 29,000 people, and in 1985, Mt. Ruiz in the Colombian Andes erupted, killing 25,000.

On the U.S. mainland, Mount St. Helens, in the Cascade Mountains of southwestern Washington state, erupted in May 1980. Fifty-seven people and thousands of animals died. A lateral blast destroyed more than 200 square miles of forest worth millions of dollars. It was the most destructive and financially disastrous volcanic event in U.S. history, according to the National Geophysical Data Center.

If you plan to visit, check current conditions at the park's website.

---

*Copyright (c) 2017 Los Angeles Times*

## Terrified mum fears HELLMOUTH found in garden after CCTV showed bizarre scene

By David Keane 13:38, 2 MAR 2017 Updated 13:43, 2 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Terrified mum fears HELLMOUTH found in her front garden after CCTV 'showed phantom legs sticking out of grass'

**Priscilla Boatman, 35, was left stunned by the images captured by her surveillance camera and now says she is too afraid to go out late at night or take her Chihuahua for walks in the garden**

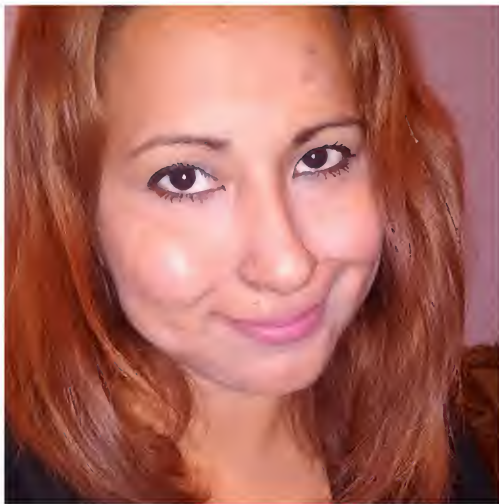


A terrified mum fears her home is haunted after her pet dog discovered what could be a "gateway to the spirit world" and CCTV showed a bizarre scene in her garden.

Priscilla Boatman's friends suggested her garden contains a hellmouth or gateway of some kind after a camera outside her home captured what looked like phantom legs sticking out of the ground.

The 35-year-old stay-at-home mum was left stunned by the images recorded by the device, which is set off by movement.

She said one shot shows what looks like a pair of legs, complete with trousers and shoes, sticking out of the grass in the middle of the night, while another shows a strange figure sat in her car.



The "legs" appear in a spot that has fascinated Priscilla's Chihuahua, Angel, during walks despite there being nothing visible there.

She has been left scared about the potential history of her home after pals who saw the picture suggested the spot could be a gateway to the spiritual world.

Priscilla, from the US state of Texas, said: "We put the camera up last year after having problems with some teenagers in the area throwing paper in our tree, knocking on the door and running off and things like that.

"It previously films things but it's started just taking pictures, I'm not sure why. It is set off whenever there is movement outside and it had gone off at some unusual times. I thought it was weird so I had a look at what it had captured.

"But we were never expecting to capture anything this weird. It looks like things sticking up from the ground - lots of people are saying they are a pair of legs.



"They do look like legs so they could be but I'm not sure what they are. They are quite big and from the size on the camera they are bigger than my dog."

"At first I thought they were twigs but then I saw the foot when I looked at a close up of them. I thought that was creepy sticking out like that."

"And what is most strange is that other shots I have do not have them on at all."

She added: "I am hoping they are not legs like people claim, but they are just perfectly outlined. That is what is so shocking - the detail of the trousers and the shoes on the legs."



"It does make you think 'where is the other half of the body?'. I shared it online as I wanted to see what people thought of it. Everyone thought it was very creepy."

"Maybe it's a gateway of some kind to the spiritual world - but that sounds very creepy."

Priscilla showed the pictures to her daughters, and one of them spotted what appeared to be an old woman wearing a white jacket in her car.

She added: "No one has a white jacket in our family and no one had been sat in the car at the time the picture was taken so we don't know who it could be."

"My daughter got quite freaked out and scared by that as she is only ten."



Priscilla was so creeped out by the images that she doesn't go out late at night anymore and no longer walks Angel around the garden.

She said: "I have seen things in some of the rooms of the house but I never thought I would capture anything on camera."

"I hope to God that I don't see the hands or any other body parts coming out of the ground."

"If it were to get any more extreme I would considering leaving the house."

Priscilla added: "I'm not a psychic but I can sense people and things sometimes and I wonder whether it's that ability that's picking up."



"I have dreamed stuff before and then woken up and its happened later that day. I am a Christian and believe in the spiritual world.

"My husband doesn't believe in stuff like this. He is also an atheist so he more believes in science."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## How jelly beans made a Canadian man deathly ill, and highlighted the dangers of licorice

| April 4, 2017 5:20 PM ET

nationalpost.com

The 51-year-old man showed up at the emergency ward in crisis.

He'd been suffering abdominal pain for three days, then appetite loss, vomiting and dry mouth. Tests showed he had both dangerously high blood pressure and hypokalemia — low potassium levels that can lead to lethal heart arrhythmia.

And yet the reasons were a mystery — he had no history of hypertension or of conditions that commonly cause blood-pressure spikes.

Finally, doctors at a southwestern Ontario hospital hit on the unlikely culprit — jelly beans.

The man had developed a ferocious habit for licorice-flavoured versions of the candy, draining a 50-bean bag of them daily. Even in dire health, he couldn't resist the sweets, "which he continued to eat in hospital," says a case study just published by his physicians.

What he didn't know and what the recently published study underscored is that licorice can cause high blood pressure and potassium imbalance in some people, the food's active ingredient, glycyrrhetic acid, triggering both conditions.

The Ontario patient was advised to end his jelly-bean habit, and within days his potassium levels had climbed back to normal and his blood pressure dropped to a safe zone.

Had doctors not uncovered the cause of his condition, the man might have stayed permanently on an array of drugs, says Dr. Tamara Spaic, an endocrinologist at London's Western University called in to help with the case.

"He would likely require long-term anti-hypertensive treatment," she said in an email response to questions. "There would likely be a need to use multiple medications, which would increase the risk of developing various side effects, as well as the unnecessary high cost of treatment and regular followups."

The patient's hometown and hospital were not identified to protect his confidentiality.

Spaic said she and her colleagues have seen such cases before, but southwestern Ontario probably has less than one a year. Though the phenomenon is well-established — sometimes even called "licorice poisoning" — it is so rare that physicians can miss it or mistake it for something else, she said.

It has likely become even more uncommon in recent years given that many products called licorice contain just flavouring, the paper in the journal *Postgraduate Medicine* said.

Yet medical literature is still full of individual case studies, some of them documenting severe consequences for the patients.

A 2015 German case describes a patient who developed acute vision impairment because of hypertension sparked by a "considerable consumption of licorice."

In Italy, a young boy came to hospital after suffering a sudden cluster of tonic-clonic seizures that were blamed on swelling of the brain related to hypertension. He had been eating licorice toffees for four months, ingesting 72 mg of glycyrrhetic acid a day, according to another 2015 study.

A British paper published this February described a 65-year-old woman who presented with hypertension and hypokalemia, eventually traced back to the licorice tea she had been drinking regularly. It was part of a regimen of alternative-health products and supplements.

A 47-year-old Spanish woman showed up in emergency with swelling around her eyes and lower limbs linked to hypokalemia and high blood pressure. It took a week, but she finally revealed to doctors she had been consuming “several sachets of raw licorice lollies” obtained from a herbalist.

### *National Post*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Girl, 4, evades wolves as she walks on a frozen river to get help for gran

By Will Stewart 18:54, 3 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A four-year-old girl braved marauding wolves to walk five miles along a frozen river in minus 24C temperatures in a desperate bid to get help for her gran.

The youngster has been hailed as one of the bravest in Siberia as she marched through chest deep snow to reach her family's nearest neighbours in their remote cattle-breeding outpost close to Mongolia.

Little Saglana Salchak woke early to hug her grandmother - her main carer - but realised the 60 year old woman was "cold".

She then stirred her completely blind grandfather who feared his wife was dead.

Not realising it was only 6am and pitch black, he told her to reach the nearest neighbours - five miles away - by walking along the course of a frozen river in Siberia's remote Tuva region.



One local said: "She was lucky not to be killed by wolves as there are many along this route and they often attack cattle."

It took Saglana three hours to complete her tough walk, and close to exhaustion she told her neighbours: "It seems my granny is dead".

Her neighbours had a satellite phone and alerted the authorities.

Doctors rushed to the scene but confirmed the grandmother had died of a heart attack but they did save the girl's visually-impaired grandfather thanks to her remarkable walk.

The Siberian Times said: "Saglana was sent to hospital , but found to be none the worse for her ordeal."

Local politicians have lined up to visit Saglana in hospital to praise her bravery.

The home share she shared with her grandparents lies 155 miles southeast of Kyzyl, the capital of the Tuva Republic.



The area is exceptionally remote and close to one of Siberia's most mysterious landmarks, the Por-Bajin fortress, a 1,300 year old mountain palace rumoured to have been built 'for a tragic Chinese princess' .



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## An entire English industry will soon be just one person from extinction

metro.co.uk

Metro News Reporter for Metro.co.uk Thursday 9 Mar 2017 12:57 pm



Les Skinner at his cooperage in Bootle, Liverpool. (Picture: Peter Byrne/PA Wire)

**An entire industry that dates back to Roman times will soon be just one person away from extinction in the UK.**

Lee Skinner, 72, is looking to sell his work shop on Canal Street in Bootle and when he does there will only be one barrel maker left in England.

Mr Skinner started as an apprentice in 1960, when Liverpool alone had dozens of coopers for the thousands of dockers unloading the ships before mechanical handling took over.

'A barrel is a wheel,' he said. 'Even if it weighs half a ton, you can roll it.'

But having once been a mainstay of trade as the world's spirits and spices passed through the port of Liverpool, the use of containers, plastic and aluminium barrels has meant the demand for new barrels and the repairing of old ones has collapsed.



Les' hand made barrels take up to five hours to make (Picture Peter Byrne/PA Wire)



The barrels are made from chestnut or oak (Picture Peter Byrne/PA Wire)

That's because it takes up to five hours

and costs £450 to make a 40 gallon barrel – cutting the wood, normally chestnut or oak, making the staves and jointing and hammering it all together.

Mr Skinner once employed six men, but has kept his business afloat by making decorative barrels and supplying Hollywood with props, including casks for films such as Robin Hood and Assassin's Creed.



His five year indentured apprenticeship certificate still sits proudly on the wall of his workshop, but once it is sold it will leave Yorkshire-based Alastair Simms as the only cooper left in the country.

It's a different story in Scotland however, where there are still around 200 coopers, with some employed directly by distillers.

Mr Skinner added: 'It's a shame really, I talked my son into going into something more technical and permanent. It's hard, physical work.'



Les is looking for a buyer for his cooperage (Picture: Peter Byrne/PA Wire)

Les is looking for a buyer for his cooperage (Picture: Peter Byrne/PA Wire)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

---

**The best of Dorset in words and pictures**

---

**Lizard's leg, and howlet's wing****Mark Burrows looks at how Dorset dealt with 'witches' in the 16th and 17th centuries****Published in February '17**

A traditional image of witches in flight ([www.lookandlearn.com](http://www.lookandlearn.com))

Even deep into Queen Victoria's reign, objects were inserted into chimneys or sealed inside wall and ceiling cavities by the superstitious. This was practised to bring luck or specifically to protect against witchcraft. Bottles of potions were concocted to counteract malevolent spells; cats were strategically entombed to deter witches' familiars from entering within. Portland Museum displays three mummified cats plus some children's shoes discovered in the tell-tale loci of properties that suggest their deliberate placement for such purposes. It had been thus for centuries.

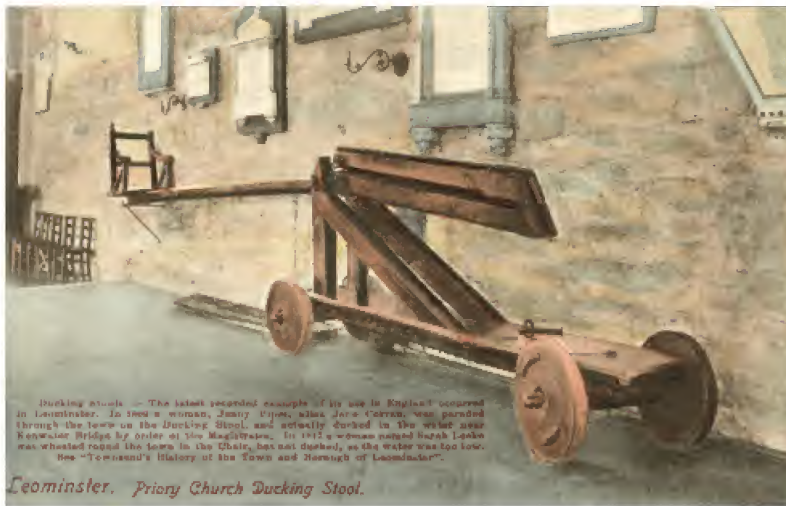
First published in 1487 Germany *Malleus Maleficarum* (which usually translates as Hammer of Witches) was one of several reasons 'witches' were persecuted in late medieval Europe. Britain mercifully lagged behind Europe in such slaughter. Henry VIII's Act of 1542 introduced the first serious attempt to tackle perceived sorcery and witchcraft, spawning successive Acts of generally increasing rigour until the *Witchcraft Act* of

1735 marked a significant reversal of this trend. The surge in accusations that began here in the 16th century continued into the 17th. By involving the three witches, Shakespeare's *Macbeth* reflected the heightened preoccupation with witchcraft following James I's 1603 accession and his published treatise, *Daemonologie*. Some of the surviving legal documents detailing Dorset's witch examinations from these centuries are extensive.

Lacking in most, however, is information about the outcomes – though in some cases we can make plausible guesses not least because the last executions for witchcraft in England took place in 1682. Agnes Mondaye was arrested in 1565 for bewitching Mistress Chettell, and in the same year a Mother Waterhouse was also accused. The following year John Walsh of Netherbury underwent examination, and allegations against Ellen Walker and John Meere were made in 1569 and 1585 respectively. In the Lyme Regis area it was recorded that 'We do find that Johane Ellesdon, widow, upon her othe, hath declared before us that Ellen Walker is a wytyche, and that she will approve, and also that James Lugebase, upon his othe hath declared before us, that the said Ellen Walker did saie unto the saide Johane Elsdon, that she could witche her no more.'

Before the Bishop of Exeter's commissary, John Walsh admitted that he performed both 'physic and surgery' for the sick. Walsh initially insisted that his form of medicine was an art devoid of ill or secret means, and additionally that he had no familiars. There can be little doubt that Walsh's subsequent and elaborate confession had been invented under duress to stop the torture inflicted to extract it. His description of the 'kindes of Feries, white, greene, & black' with whom he professed to cavort would not at the time have been dismissed as nonsensical ramblings. Walsh confessed to having a familiar – a peculiarly English notion – that variously took the form of a pigeon, a dog or a man who appeared normal except for cloven feet. Witches, their familiars and shift-shaping were





For towns serious about resolving their perceived witch problem (evidently as was Leominster) they could build a ducking stool. This is the last known English one.

for her life, and to prevent further assaults she and her husband filed a complaint. Under oath, defendant Judith Gibbs claimed that for several years she had been 'tormented with strange swellings and hardness within her body for the curing whereof her friends spent much tyme and coste upon learned doctors and other physicons without any help or hope'. With contemporary medical knowledge so limited it should be unsurprising that these physicians had ultimately concluded her illnesses to be caused by witchcraft. Further, the two sisters claimed amongst a catalogue of other accusations that drawing drops of Jone's blood had 'amended in [Judith Gibbs] said swellings and greife of her body'. To such a magnitude was the finger pointed that an escalating vendetta was probably behind this. Jone had previously angered Gibbs by refusing to use her skills to alleviate the latter's symptoms. Ironically the counter-accusations of the defendants might have proved fatal for Jone but for a statement signed by the rest of the small community insisting that far from harming anyone she had done many people much good.



Examining witches was not always mired in observing legal due process (www.lookandlearn.com)

An incident at a Lyme Regis bakery in 1698 sparked the events culminating in accusations against Anne Traull and Margaret Wray. Traull had been suspected of stealing some dough by fifteen-year-old Frances Callway at her family's business. Her parents testified that Traull had not only advised Frances that she should not have made the accusation but also threatened to do her harm. Within hours, it was claimed, Frances felt dreadful pain. Eleven days later she began suffering violent fits and struggling with a terrifying apparition invisible to everyone else. The physicians who examined Frances told her parents 'they could do their daughter no good by reason it was not a natural distemper'. Other significant factors in this case contributed to the defendants' committal to gaol while awaiting trial. It was believed that by pricking a witch one could break the affliction-causing spell as demonstrated in the Guppie case. Conversely an obsession with witches pricking their victims abounded, and Frances claimed that apparitions of the defendants appeared to her 'like Lions sometimes pinching and at other times pricking her'.

That supposed bedridden victims claimed to see apparitions of those bewitching them is also cited in the earlier case of Deanes Grimmerton. Whether or not the victims were claiming to experience what they determined they should either through malicious scheming or by psychological phenomena is unclear. It might be that a frightened Frances Callway reacted hysterically with what is now called a conversion disorder: fear can induce physical symptoms entailing pain, excessive



convulsions or paralysis, and occasionally hallucinations. There is, though, a third possibility. The consciousness of sleep paralysis is a state between wakefulness and sleeping. During such episodes one is prone to vividly realistic and terrifying hallucinations that most commonly take the form of a figure by the bed or holding the perceiver down. Latterly often aliens or ghosts, way back visitors included succubi and winged demons. Sleep paralysis hallucinations during Renaissance Europe would have conjured up witches.

Pipe-smoking wife Deanes Grimmerton was accused by Richard Scorch of bewitching his eighteen year-old son, Nathaniel, at Lyme Regis in 1687. Minutes after returning from a sea voyage Scorch witnessed his son's symptoms for the first time: violent fits requiring up to eight people to hold Nathaniel down. Complaining of being pricked, pins were found in bed around Nathaniel's body without having caused bleeding. Nathaniel too reported seeing visions of the accused, describing an attire conforming to 17th-century conceptualisation of a witch's costume. He wasn't alone in reporting visitations from Deanes – and would likely have known it. A few years earlier eighteen year-old Elizabeth Tillman, possibly an epileptic, had died after displaying similar symptoms to Nathaniel for three years. These included apparitions of Deanes sitting on her bed or holding her down.



Accusations of witchcraft could be a useful way of settling old scores, or resolving other legal difficulties ([www.lookandlearn.com](http://www.lookandlearn.com))

Although black magic was widely feared most accusations stemmed from commonplace neighbour disputes or the propensity to attribute misfortune to scapegoats. Certainly nothing supernatural occurred, and the determinants of reported symptoms are matters for conjecture. The 1638 Wareham examination of Mary Shepherd provides another representative case. Joane Coward testified that after one of her stockings had been pulled down by the accused she suffered paralysis of her limbs, being unable to 'stur hand or foot'. Joane quickly recovered after the mayor had intervened by ordering the accused to shake her hand. Following a relapse Joane again recovered after Mary Shepherd was summoned and 'pulled (her) by the hands'. This bizarre testimony might not in itself have been sufficient for Mary to be committed to trial. But there was more. Local spinster Ann Trew testified that she had witnessed

Mary pull a legging onto Ed Gillingame who 'fell instantly both lame and sick'. Crucially we don't know if the second victim was aware at that time of the first's accusation and symptoms but can assume it likely in a small community.



A meeting of witches, an illustration from 1841 for the *Chronicles of Crime*

Frances Callway's alleged symptoms included vomiting several crooked pins and part of a needle. This would have complied with what a victim of witchcraft was expected to do. Following Dr John Cotta's similar manual of 1616, Dr William Drage published in 1665 a book widely consulted by physicians entitled, *Daimonomageia: a Small Treatise of Sicknesses and Diseases From Witchcraft*. Drage specifies the vomiting of crooked nails, pins and needles as symptomatic of being bewitched. He adds, 'A Physician of my Acquaintance told me he examined strictly Eye-Witnesses ..... and where it was a report, that a Maid bewitched, vomited ..... Hair, Needles, Pins, and they assured

*A meeting of witches, an illustration  
from 1841 for the Chronicles of  
Crime*

him of the Truth, that it was so; and the like have I heard of some tried formerly at some Assizes of this Kingdom'. Another key symptom emphasised by Drage is 'convulsions of the whole Body by intervals'. If

the witchcraft victims of Dorset and elsewhere had reacted or been reported as reacting in a manner consistent with being bewitched it should be clear that they would have been familiar with how to do so, whether wittingly or otherwise.

---

© 2003–2017. Dorset Life Magazine. Privacy policy | Terms & conditions

All rights reserved. All trademarks acknowledged. Website designed by Fudgie Design.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Loads of vintage candy wrappers found under the floor of historic movie theater

metv.com

It's incredible what treats you can find under the seats of a classic movie palace.

By: MeTV Staff Posted: March 20, 2017, 1:37PM



Image: Eric Nordstrom / Facebook

Built in 1926, the Congress Theater was one of the grand movie palaces of Depression-era Chicago. In its heyday, the Congress, part of the local movie theater chain Lubliner and Trinz, could seat more than 2,500 patrons on its two tiered levels.

In more recent years, the aging, ornate building was used as a venue for punk concerts and professional wrestling matches.

After some drama, which could fill another long article, ownership of the Congress switched hands in 2014. The new owner plans to pour around \$55 million into the restoration of the theater, which will reportedly include hotel rooms and commercial space.

In early 2017, the Congress Theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places, with plans to reopen the space later this year.

Before the overhaul begins in earnest, "urban archaeologist" Eric Nordstrom has explored the interior looking for antique treasure. Nordstrom is the founder of Urban Remnants, a dealer of artifacts and furniture salvaged from old buildings. Recently, he was searching in an air circulation space under the balcony when he uncovered a trove of vintage candy wrappers.

These decades-old boxes of JuicyFruits and Red Hots are incredibly preserved. It's fascinating to see how some familiar packaging — such as Dots, Hershey bars and Butterfingers — have hardly changed in a century, while others are ghosts of now-forgotten treats.

Perhaps your grandparents will remember chewing on "Carmies" and "Peanets" while watching the latest Bogart flick.

Nordstrom's Facebook page features even more photos, while the Urban Remnants blog showcases other discoveries from this beautiful old building.

© 2017 MeTV National Limited Partnership



# An Oasis in the Desert of the Real: Looking for Zerzura

esoterx.com

EsoterX



EsoterX

21 Tuesday Feb 2017

*"The desert is no longer a landscape, it is a pure form produced by the abstraction of all others" – Jean Baudrillard*



Zerzura has the best roadside diners.

One thing that really sticks in a historian's craw is a lost city, long relegated to the nether realms of folklore that is rediscovered or turns out never to have been lost in the first place. Of course, once we pinpoint the location of these elusive places, learned dissertations on them are produced by the veritable ream, mostly geared towards explaining our earlier confusion about their mythological status. Humans are really good at losing stuff in the sands of time. Or in the literal sand.

You see, our comfy little biome is constantly changing. Fertile lands turn to desert. Grasslands turn to tundra. Mountains erode or are uplifted. Rivers change their course. Oceans swallow shore or expose it. Geologic shift happens. These days, only about 30% of the earth is dry land. Of that dry land, about 33% is desert and 24% is mountainous to the point of inhabitability. That means that a whopping 43% of the dry land on the planet is actually inhabited to any large degree. If you're not comfortable with percentages because you were making out with your girlfriend under the bleachers that day in math class, basically of the 57,308,738 square miles of land surface, only 24,642,757 square miles are inhabitable.

If all the habitable land (loosely defined) on earth was equally divided among the 7.2 billion *Homo sapiens* alive today, we'd each get about 2.3 acres. Sadly, we would have to forgo a lot of amenities which contribute to our swanky lifestyles like roads, schools, and hospitals, and just because a plot of dirt is considered "habitable" it doesn't mean it is richly endowed with arable land or drinkable water, so we'll probably have to shelve that idea, although it's interesting to note that if we wanted everyone to enjoy the lifestyle of the average American, we would need about 10 planet Earths. Frankly, we better get busy figuring out how to clone planets. I hear the other side of our orbit is nice this time of year.

The point, which I've taken a roundabout way to get to as I mused about our ultimate doom (everyone needs a hobby), is really (1) we're doomed, and (2) vast swaths of the world are essentially uninhabitable, although which particular parts have desiccated or been covered by ice, snow, or water varies over time. No wonder we lose stuff. The savvy readers among you are no doubt thinking, "Hey, people do live in deserts". True, but not for long. And not comfortably. And generally, not by choice (unless you've read too much Frank Herbert).

At this historical juncture, you would think that we have found enough lost cities, that we might take folklore a little more seriously, not in an *Ancient Aliens* way that maintains that whatever we have lost was clearly some sort of extraterrestrial-influenced super-civilization, rather that changes in climate, geology, and even the migrations of people have obscured the past, both philosophically and geographically. The list of “rediscovered” cities mentioned in ancient literature and folklore that folks were doubtful ever existed is extensive, in fact too extensive to list here. Go do your own research if you’re into it. Do I have to do everything? Geez. But that simple fact should give us pause. I’m not suggesting we take Atlantis or Mu too seriously. I’m not so ambitious. But to historians, this is a slippery slope. And they’re not wrong. A lost city is a blank slate. Until someone finds it. Or doesn’t find it and finds it later. Or doesn’t find it at all. The “Lost City” is the ancient emptiness upon which we can inscribe our hopes and dreams, to evaluate what was, what is, what might have been, and what the future could hold. This brings us to Zerzura.

**Zerzura—It is doubtful whether any place of this name exists. “Zerzur” is Arabic for a small bird, so “Zerzura” would have some such meaning as “the place of small birds,” and appears somewhat fantastic. Zerzura seems to be a generic name applied to any undiscovered or traditional Oasis. In addition to Dendura—Bholf’s Zerzura—I have heard it applied to the “Egyptian oasis,” and also to some reported ruins west of Mut (King, 1913, p283).**

While it seems many a locale has been referred to as “Zerzura” (or the variation “Dendura”), we also get rather specific references to its location, as in “It is said to lie seven days due west from Bu Mungar. A very large ‘sif’ i.e. longitudinal dune, which is almost impassable, is said to lie just to the east of it. It may be under the lee of one of the three big longitudinal dunes mentioned under the heading of ‘Dunes,’ or of a shorter ‘sif’ that has not come down to the direct road between Dakhla and Kufra” (King, 1913, p279). Now, the desert is a fairly inhospitable place, not the sort of clime you want to be wandering around in digging in sandpiles. This has not stopped many an intrepid explorer from traipsing off into the Egyptian and Libyan deserts and digging in sandpiles, looking for clues about Zerzura. Attention has tended to focus on a region called the *Gilf Kebir* (the “Great Barrier”), a plateau roughly the size of Puerto Rico in remote southwestern Egypt and southeastern Libya.

**The Gilf Kebir consists of a broad elliptical plateau capped by extremely resistant sandstones of the Nubia Series (Peel, 1939b). Since its first sighting in 1909 by W. J. Harding King (see discussion in Bagnold, 1931), the Gilf Kebir and surrounding region has been the destination of several expeditions to southwestern Egypt, although the remote setting and harsh environment have not allowed extensive field work. Many of the early expeditions concentrated on mapping the extent of the plateau, exploring the many archaeological sites, and finding ways to go around it. Legendary accounts of the lost city of Zerzura, reported to be in the interior of the plateau (Bermann, 1934), no doubt were responsible for several of these trips. Serious investigation of the geomorphic history of the Gilf, however, began in 1938 (Maxwell, 1982, p282).**

The Gilf Kebir also happens to be home to a plethora of Neolithic rock paintings and carvings, depicting a time when the region was teeming with flora and fauna, and populated by reasonably large numbers of human beings. Even since 1900, the Sahara Desert has expanded at least an additional 6000 square kilometers, so lord knows what one might find under the dunes. Frankly, the Sahara has no doubt swallowed quite a bit of history. So, why have folks been so interested in Zerzura? It’s the traditional reason humans take interest in a lot of things that would otherwise go

completely un-noticed. Treasure. While there is an early mention of Zerzura in 1246 A.D. by Osman el Nabulsi, a Syrian Emir and administrator of Faiyum province on the edge of the Nile, who stated that it was only one of a number of abandoned villages south-west of Faiyum, it is the mention of Zerzura in a 15th Century treasure-hunters guide that has captured the imaginations of many an explorer.

**There is a much more imaginative allusion to it in the Book of Hidden Pearls, a 15th-century magical treatise by an anonymous Arabic author, who describes the locations of over 400 hidden treasures in Egypt alone and how to discover them by incantations and other occult means. He refers to Zerzura in the most enchanting terms: “In the city of Wardabah,” he writes, “situated behind the citadel of el Suri, you will see palms, vines and springs. Penetrate into the Wadi and pursue your way up to it; you will find another Wadi running westwards between the mountains. From this last Wadi starts a road which will lead you to the city of Zerzura, of which you will find the door closed. This city is white like a pigeon and on the door of it is carved a bird. Take with your hand the key in the beak of the bird, then open the door of the city. Enter, and there you will find great riches, also the King and Queen sleeping in their castle. Do not approach them, but take the treasure” (Epton, 1953, p105-106).**

As a rule of thumb, always approach anonymous 15th Century grimoires with a degree of trepidation. If it's not pure fantasy you might be unleashing preternatural horrors on the world. If it's just a way for somebody to make a buck, you'll probably end up dying of thirst as you roam about the desert trying to pick up a trail. Sir John Gardner Wilkinson, Father of British Egyptology took a side interest in Zerzura, suggesting that stories about it shared archetypal elements of many a tale about lost oases. Pro tip. Lose your camel.

**Sir Gardner Wilkinson mentioned Zerzura in 1835 along with other places not then known to Europeans, but which have been discovered since. According to his account Zerzura would be somewhere in the Great Sand Sea of the south, and many other travellers have collected stories about it since from the Arabs and the Bedouins. Most of these stories mention palms and ruins, or a lake surrounded by little birds, and always the finder at the time of his discovery is either lost or in search of a stray camel (a very common occurrence in the desert). When he wishes to return to this oasis in the company of others he can never retrace his steps. Zerzura is the secret, elusive paradise of legend and literature; and just as the biblical Eden, the mythical Atlantis and the Garden of the Hesperides have never been exactly located in spite of unending speculation and research, so presumably will Zerzura (which is made of the same fabulous tissue) remain forever inaccessible except to the poets of the desert and to romantic travellers far from home, who weave fantasies round tent fires during the long nights in the starry desert (Epton, 1953, p105-106).**

A puzzling little tidbit about Zerzura has been spread far and wide, but I can find no indication what the original source was. A tale was supposedly recorded by the scribes of the Emir of Benghazi in 1481 A.D., regarding a camel driver called Hamid Keila. He appeared in Benghazi and recounted a tale of having been lost in the desert, and rescued by the inhabitants of Zerzura. Keila reported that Zerzura was spectacularly wealthy, and gave strange details about the people who lived there. They were fair skinned, blue-eyed, carried straight sword rather than scimitars, spoke an odd version of Arabic, were clearly not Muslim (women were unveiled, there was no mosque, and no muezzin was heard). They nursed Keila back to health, and he repaid their kindness by stealing a ruby ring and fleeing to Benghazi. Even the Emir thought Keila was a jerk, and ordered his hand cut



off (as a thief), since clearly he had stolen from folks, who while presumably infidels, seemed to have shown him great hospitality and charity. The implication of course is that there was a city of lost Crusaders out there in the Libyan Desert.

Take this story with a grain of salt, as nobody seems to be able to identify the original source, or makes much effort to. Color me suspicious. Throw in some Templars and you've got a Dan Brown novel. It has also been suggested that Hamid Keila was actually the anonymous author of the *Kitab al Kanuz* (Book of Hidden Treasures). If anybody ever runs across the original source for the Hamid Keila story, I'd be intrigued. Personally, I suspect it was invented to add a little more mystery and spice things up, but I couldn't say where or when this occurred, as there doesn't seem to be a paper trail, and it's awfully hard to track down the records of the scribes of a 15th Century Emir of Benghazi, if such records exist at all.

Nonetheless, in the 20th Century, European explorers kept up the search. Ralph Bagnold of Britain, and the Hungarian László Almásy led an expedition to search for Zerzura from 1929-1930 using Ford Model A trucks. In 1932 the Almásy- Patrick Clayton expedition reconnaissance flights pinpointed two curious valleys in the Gilf Kebir. Still, nobody has ever stumbled across definitive proof of Zerzura.

And perhaps that is a virtue of the desert. It shows us the limitations of our knowledge, the inexorable change of our world impelled by forces outside our control, the ultimate desiccation of our civilizations, which will all one day be buried in our memory with the shifting of the sands. As Will Durant said, "Our knowledge is a receding mirage in an expanding desert of ignorance".

## References

Epton, Nina Consuelo. Oasis Kingdom: the Libyan Story. New York: Roy Publishers, 1953.

King, W.J. Harding. "The Libyan Desert from Native Information". Royal Geographical Society (Great Britain). The Geographical Journal v42 (Jul-Dec). London: Royal Geographical Society, 1913.

Maxwell, Ted A, Farouk El-Baz, and Planetary Geology Program (U.S.). Desert Landforms of Southwest Egypt: a Basis for Comparison With Mars. Washington, DC: Scientific and Technical Information Branch, NASA, 1982.

## thoughts on "An Oasis in the Desert of the Real: Looking for Zerzura"

1.

busterggisaid:

February 21, 2017 at 12:15 pm

"If it's not pure fantasy you might be unleashing preternatural horrors on the world."

As if that would stop anyone!

Actually there are ruins of quite a few farms that operated between colonial times and up to the Great Depression in the woods near my house. I've watched them disappearing over the past fifty years (some are gone completely).

Did Wig Hill Road ever exist? Sort of, it was never developed but it was laid out and the paths the road would have taken was still visible winding through the woods way back when but

even I'd have a tough time finding it again. How do I know the name? I found the sign that had been posted back when it was laid out. But you won't find it on any map.

You won't find the partly built housing development hidden behind buildings & trees a few blocks from my house either. Apparently the funds ran out and the area around it was used for other purposes but the foundations poured in the '60's are still there if you know where to look.

2.

*floodmousesaid:*

February 23, 2017 at 3:45 pm

I have always wanted to find out what would happen if you planted bindweed at the edge of a desert. I spent one entire summer pulling bindweed out of my garden plot, and the bindweed spent the same summer rebinding all the earth that I had turned 2 or 3 days ago. I have always had the idea that a clever genetic engineer, and some bindweed, could quickly find a way to reclaim large tracts of desert.

---

*Blog at WordPress.com.*

# New York's Incredible Lost Rooftop Theatres

messynessychic.com



March 17, 2017

## MESSY NESSY

### CABINET OF CHIC CURIOSITIES



There are some things we've lost that I'll never understand. Midcentury automobile design comes to mind, as well as piano bars & cocktail lounges on our airplanes, hand-painted typography and artisanal signs lining our high streets, and now, I'll add rooftop theatres to my list. From previous research on **the ladies of the Ziegfeld Follies**, I'd come across the New York Theatre's rooftop garden where the chorus girls debuted their show at the turn of the century, but I wasn't aware that New York City was literally once peppered with rooftop theatre gardens. The Museum of New York City has a very good archive of them, so I thought we'd take a little trip down memory lane and remind ourselves what how Friday nights in the big apple could have been...

### New York Theatre's "Jardin de Paris"



This is the New York theatre pictured in 1901 when it was known as "Cherry Blossom Grove", decked out in spring foliage. The theatre first opened in 1895 by a German-born businessman with a passion for opera, Oscar Hammerstein (not to be confused with his grandson, Oscar Hammerstein II, the American lyricist who co-wrote *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *Showboat* etc). Originally known as the Olympia Theatre, for a fifty-cent ticket, you could be admitted to the theatre's two main auditoriums as well as the roof garden, an Oriental café, bowling and billiards facilities.

Oscar drove the theatre into debt within a few years and it was auctioned off in 1898 (although he'd later go on to open a more successful one which we'll see in a moment).

Under new direction, the roof theatre became its own establishment and went through several name changes, including "Winter Garden Theatre", "Cherry Blossom Grove" (as we see it pictured here), "New York Roof" and finally the "Jardin de Paris" when the Ziegfeld's Follies debuted their show at the theatre in 1907.

After the Ziegfeld girls had their run, it later became a movie theatre before it was razed in 1935. By this time, roof garden theatres in New York were seeing their demise. Historians suggest the





**JARDIN DE PARIS**  
 (THE GARDEN OF PARIS, AT OP NEW YORK AND CRITERION THEATRES),  
 Broadway from 44th to 42d St.  
 MANAGEMENT OF F. ZIEGFELD, JR.

**The Universal Resort Where the Smart Set Go**  
 And where you are everybody who is really worth seeing.  
 WARM WHEN COLD. COOLED WHEN WARM. COVERED WHEN RAINY. EXPOSED WHEN FINE.

**Costliest Vaudeville Ever Given in New York.**  
 Positive appearance: DAZIE, Premier Danseuse Manhattan Opera House; FRED KARNO'S London Comedy Company in "A Night in an English Music Hall"; JEWELL'S Electrical Menkings; DAISY JAMES, the Little English Dynamo; CELIA GALLEY, Parisienne Impresario; FLORENZ TROUPE, 10 acrobats; 4 STEWART SISTERS, European Novelty Dancers.

**LONDON EMPIRE MODELS—NEW LIVING PICTURES**  
 Thoroughly Partisan Atmosphere—French Quadrille Dancers at Intermission.

**The Four Mortons—Final Week**  
 Every Evening at 8:30. Reserved Seats, \$1.50. Promenade, \$1.

**TO-NIGHT At 8:30 SUNDAY CONCERT**  
 The Four Mortons, Geo. Evans, Fred Karno Company, Celia Galley, Daisy James, Burt Earle, Florenz Troupe, Stewart Sisters, Empire Models.

**VERY SOON THE ZIEGFELD REVUE — FOLLIES OF 1907**

advancements in air-conditioning and the lure of silent film rendered the al fresco sky theatres obsolete. [Head shaking].



In 2016, during the

© MCNY



© MCNY

construction of a Gap and Old Navy flagship store, remnants of the original Olympia Theatre were found under the floors of the previous tenant (a Toys R Us store).

### The Paradise Roof Garden of Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre

So this one was Oscar Hammerstein's second and more successful attempt at rooftop theatre, built in 1899. The semi-outdoor vaudeville venue was extremely popular for the better part of two decades.

It first opened as a Venetian Terrace Roof Garden, built with a "grand promenade" inspired by the French riviera. Two solid steel elevators took theatre-goers up to the roof that could open and close to accommodate the New York weather.

The rooftop even had a pond, a Dutch-style dairy farm and a Parisian windmill.





Actors rehearsing on top of the New York Theatre © MCNY

The Paradise Roof Gardens was a perfect for escape the city's summer heat. In addition to traditional theatre seats, there were café style tables and chairs reminiscent of the **Parisian summer guinguette** for guests to converse while watching wordless entertainment they called "dumb acts". Some of these acts included Barnold's Dog and Monkey Pantomime Company, and wire-walker Bird Millman.

Like the other rooftop theatres, sadly (and



© MCNY



© MCNY



© MCNY



© MCNY

incomprehensibly) the Paradise Roof Gardens fell out of fashion and was closed along with the selling of the Victoria Theatre in 1915. Located at 42nd Street and Seventh Avenue, it is now the Rialto Theatre.

### Casino Theatre

The Casino Theatre at 1404 Broadway, at West 39th Street was the first venue in New York City's history to open a roof garden in 1890. It originally had a capacity for 875 people. The theatre is perhaps best known for its 1900 production featuring a chorus line called the "Florodora Sextet".

The Casino Theatre held on until 1930 when it closed its doors and was demolished the same year.

### Roof Garden at the Madison Square Garden Theatre





© MCNY



© MCNY



© MCNY

Plenty of drama ensued at Madison Square Garden



© MCNY



The Byron Company performers atop Hammersteins Victoria, 1904 © MCNY

Theatre's roof garden, made infamous by the cold blooded murder of architect Stanford White which took

place there in 1906. The tragic result of a love triangle played out on the rooftop stage when a jealous millionaire, Harry Thaw, murdered the suspected lover of his wife Evelyn Nesbit, a well-known muse, chorus girl and more recently referred to as "the world's first supermodel". Thaw had a notorious cocaine habit and was known to be obsessively jealous of his young bride.

At some point, the roof garden theatre had a Japanese make-over, reflecting America's fascination with Asian culture at the time. Ten years after White's murder, the theatre was bankrupt and the new





© MCNY

arena was later built uptown in 1925 as the theatre was being demolished. The New York Life Insurance building stands in its place today.

### Roof Garden of the American Theatre on 42nd Street

When this charming rooftop theatre first opened, it had both an outdoor and indoor auditorium decorated with twinkling “stars” on a blue ceiling with forest scenes painted on the walls. It later became the

Loew’s American Theatre when both auditoriums were switched over to vaudeville to improve poor ticket sales.



© MCNY

That didn’t work and the theatre announced its closure in 1929, heading for demolition. Ironically, it was briefly saved by the Great Depression when plans for an office tower set to be built in its place were stalled for lack of finances. The theatre reopened to entertain the down and out city with burlesque acts for another year. In 1930, a fire destroyed a large part of the American Theatre and for many years, the site was used as a bizarre combination of offices,

apartments and a circus. For the second half of the 20th century, it was used as a parking lot before the 11 Times Square office building was built on top of it.



© MCNY

### Century Theatre

The Century Theatre was located at 62nd Street and Central Park West, noted for its beautiful architecture. After 8 years in business however, the theatre was considered a financial disaster, largely due to poor acoustics and an inconvenient location. In 1917,

Florenz Ziegfeld opened the roof garden as a nightclub and named it the **Cocoanut Grove**, based on the success of a similar venue, Ziegfeld Midnight Frolic at the New Amsterdam Theatre. The theatre was demolished in 1931 and replaced by the Century Apartments building.

### Japanese Roof Garden



© MCNY

Do you see the sign on the building to the left of the street? That was William Fox's Japanese Roof Garden, the first east coast rooftop theatre to receive permission to be equipped for sound in 1929. (I hope they had neighbours that liked to be entertained).

It opened in 1913 with over a thousand seats and was located on Broadway at W. 96th Street.



*Arabian Acrobats posing as a group on the roof of Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre © MCNY*



© MCNY



© MCNY

## The Astor Hotel's Roof Garden

I'll let this *New York Times* article from 1920 describe

the scene:

Down near Times Square the Hotel Astor Roof Garden and Belvedere Restaurant make it possible for the wayfarer to leave the torrid stretches of Seventh Avenue and in a few moments find himself in a real garden surrounded by flowers. There is the open-air dancing floor and the restaurant is conspicuous for dangling ferns and trailing vines. A unique feature of the restaurant is the gabled-glass roof over which flows a miniature Niagra.





On top of the building, pictured here in 1900, you can see the rooftop theatre peeking over the edge © Detroit Publishing Company



Rattan garden chairs in the Casino Theatre boxes. © MCNY

It's been gone since 1967, but in its heyday, the rooftop boasted a large bandstand for the Big Band era where the kings of swing played for the Gilded-Age New Yorkers, including jazz trombonist Tommy Dorsey and a little-known **Frank Sinatra** in the earliest days of his music career. The Astor, along with its rooftop, was closed and demolished in 1967. The site is now occupied by a 54-story skyscraper office tower, One Astor Plaza.

**Archive images sourced unless**

**otherwise indicated from the Museum of the City of New York. Their photographs are also for sale and some of these would be pretty neat to own as high quality prints.**



Casino's Theatre Cafe © MCNY

2016 - 13 THINGS LTD. All rights



© MCNY



via Lost New York & Untapped Cities

reserved.





© MCNY



© MCNY



*Photo. (U.S. Patent) P. Johnston. Copyright 1909 by The New Theatre.*  
**Rooftop Pavillion of the Century Theatre. Frances Benjamin Johnston**  
 – *The New-York-Architect*, November 1909.



via Cinema Treasures



via Cinema Treasures



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woolly Mammoth Could Be 'De-Extinct' In 2 Years, Scientist Says

huffingtonpost.com

Did we learn *nothing* from “Jurassic Park?”

A Harvard University scientist told The Guardian this week that his team is only two years from resurrecting some traits of the woolly mammoth, which went extinct during the last ice age. The goal is to create an embryo that’s a hybrid of the woolly mammoth and its closest living relative, the Asian elephant.

“Our aim is to produce a hybrid elephant-mammoth embryo,” researcher George Church told The Guardian. “Actually, it would be more like an elephant with a number of mammoth traits.”

Church explained to HuffPost last year that the process involves retrieving DNA from mammoth remains preserved on the frozen tundra, then splicing that DNA into the genome of an Asian elephant. The species are so closely related that they would be able to breed if both were alive today, Church noted.

The project has plenty of critics, including conservationists who call it a gimmick and say the idea of “de-extinction” diverts attention from efforts to conserve species that are still alive. Church, for his part, has said his efforts would improve conservation of endangered Asian elephants, engineering them to be better adapted to cold — thus allowing them to live in expanded territory.

“I call them cold-resistant Asian elephants,” Church told HuffPost in a 2016 interview.

Church said he envisions the hybrid creatures living on the tundras of Russia and Canada, where he has argued their presence could help stave off the effects of climate change. As he wrote in Scientific American:

Mammoths could keep the region colder by: (a) eating dead grass, thus enabling the sun to reach spring grass, whose deep roots prevent erosion; (b) increasing reflected light by felling trees, which absorb sunlight; and (c) punching through insulating snow so that freezing air penetrates the soil. Poachers seem far less likely to target Arctic mammoths than African elephants.

Church and his team plan to grow the hybrid animal in an artificial womb, due to the ethical concerns of recruiting a living female elephant for the process. But some skeptics say the artificial womb scheme has its own serious shortcomings.

“Church’s team is proposing to rear the embryo in an ‘artificial womb’ which seems ambitious to say the least — the resultant animal would have been deprived of all the pre-birth interactions with its mother,” University of Manchester professor Matthew Cobb told The Guardian.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Man blew up his own house because he was depressed at being 50

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 1 Mar 2017 11:58 am



The street after the explosion (Picture: Matthew Horwood/Wales News Service)

**A man blew up his own house on his birthday because he was depressed at turning 50.**

William Flindell filled his flat with gas and set it off with a lighter after spending the day drinking, a court heard.

The huge explosion ripped the windows out of his living room and showered bricks and debris across the street in Newport, South

Wales.

Flindell escaped with his life, but lost the use of both hands in the blast, suffered burns to 58 per cent of his body and was kept in hospital for two months.

It caused £200,000 of damage and also hurt two other people in the building at the time, who had minor injuries and were discharged from hospital the same day.



William Flindell has been jailed (Picture: Wales News Service)

Witness heard a man shouting 'Get out, get out' of the bedsit property before the explosion.

Cardiff Crown Court heard the front of the house on George Street was 'completely blown apart' and showered the street in bricks and debris.

Flindell admitted arson being reckless to whether life was endangered and told police in hospital: 'I'm sorry I have done it, I wanted to kill myself.'

He told police he was drinking on his 50th birthday on April 2nd last year when he became depressed and plotted the explosion.

Sarah Waters, defending, said the blast was 'drastic and uncharacteristic'.

She said: 'The effect this has had on him physically has been horrendous.'

The living room wall was blown off (Picture: Wales News Service)

Flindell was jailed for four and a half years for causing the explosion.

Judge Michael Fitton QC told him he was lucky no one else was seriously injured or even killed.



The judge said: 'You were under the influence of alcohol but you were not psychotic and you did this deliberately knowing how dangerous it was.'

'This was still a serious offence of gross recklessness involving an extremely dangerous action for selfish reasons.'

Flindell, of George Street, Newport, was sentenced to four years and six months in prison.

The court heard Flindell would be treated for

depression while in prison.

*For emotional support call the Samaritans on 116123 or visit a local Samaritans branch. See <http://www.samaritans.org> for details.*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man caught on camera as he falls from Elgin's Dandy Lion after boozy night out

By Charlie Gall 06:00, 24 JAN 2017 News

[dailyrecord.co.uk](http://dailyrecord.co.uk)

### Man caught on camera as he face-plants from Elgin's Dandy Lion after boozy night out

The images of his tumble from the public monument have gone viral.



Going ...

Tumbling head-first off a 10ft statue would be painful enough without pictures of your plunge ending up on Facebook.

But that was what poor Alan "Deano" Dean had to deal with yesterday. That, and a very nasty headache.

Alan was heading home from a boozy Friday night out in Elgin with partner Heather Gauld when he felt the urge to shin up Dandy Lion, the town's much-criticised new 10ft statue.

Heather got her phone out to film the

escapade but it turned into a horror movie when Alan lost his grip and hit the deck.



Passer-by Liam Souter, who went to help the couple, said: "We heard this massive thud as we walked past Dandy Lion. The guy was in a pile on the floor. He'd cracked his head and there was a pool of blood on the tiles.

"The lady with him was in shock so I took her mobile and called an ambulance.



"She told me he'd climbed up so she could take a photo but he slipped off because the statue was a bit wet."

The ambulance took Alan to Dr Gray's Hospital in the town, where staff patched him up. He was in bed back home yesterday and didn't want to speak, but his fame was spreading after footage of his mishap found its way online.

Pictures appeared on Dandy Lion's unofficial Facebook page and had been shared more

than 350 times by last night.

They also attracted more than 450 comments – many of them unsympathetic.





Locals were bemused last month when Dandy Lion was unveiled as part of a £120,000 publicly funded project to spruce up Elgin town centre. One local councillor called it "cultural vomit" – and Alan probably doesn't like it much now either.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man cites “hybrid humans” conspiracy fear in horrific murder

doubtfulnews.com

In mid-January, a Pennsylvania man killed his pregnant 25-year-old wife in their home with a scimitar-like sword. She was found dead of multiple sharp force trauma to the head and neck. Their 2-yr old son was unharmed. The 6-month female fetus did not survive. This week, police testified in a hearing that John Ziegler III admitted to killing his wife Diana because he needed to save the world from “hybrid humans”:

When Northern York County Regional police interviewed John Ziegler III, he told them that he’d been “feeling off” for the last three months. Ziegler also expressed a belief, they said, that he could change the weather with his emotions.

He believed that his wife was the “queen bee.” Ziegler thought everything would change — it wasn’t a political statement — with the election of President Donald Trump.



The mental history of Ziegler is unclear from just the provided news reports. The couple had not lived in the house very long. Three months prior to the crime would have been November, election month. The date of the crime January 27, seven days after Inauguration day. The police log is incorrect in stating it was 1-17-17. I was not able to pinpoint which of the many insane ideas about “hybrid humans” Ziegler might have been referencing or what “Queen Bee” specifically referred to. Some may interpret this as a growing cultural acceptability of extreme ideas proffered by talk radio hosts and internet conspiracy sites. Have these ideas pushed some people over the edge? It’s tempting to blame such vile extremism as triggers, but rampant murder isn’t occurring. More will likely come out in the trial scheduled for April in York

County.

Additional information or comments can be sent to [editor@doubtfulnews.com](mailto:editor@doubtfulnews.com). Follow on Twitter: [@doubtfulnews](https://twitter.com/doubtfulnews)

**idoubtit**

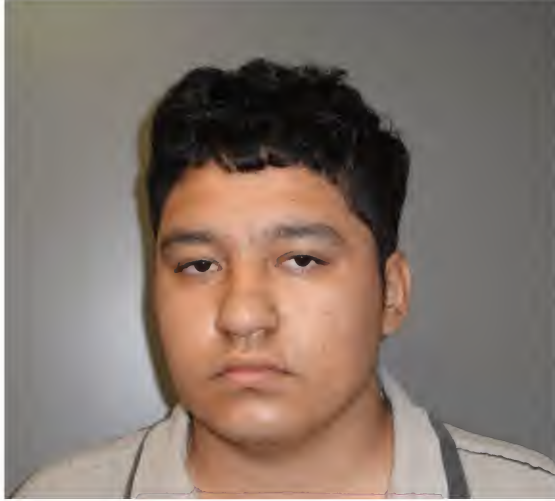
Copyright © 2017 Lithospherica, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Magazine Premium created by c.bavota.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man 'decapitates his mother and carries her severed head into the street'

metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 8 Mar 2017 3:44 pm



Oliver Funes Machada is accused of killing his mother (Picture: Police Handout)

**A man is accused of decapitating his mother before carrying her severed head out of the house.**

During the grisly scene, 18-year-old Oliver Funes Machada allegedly killed his mother and then walked out the front door of her house holding the woman's head, authorities said.

Oliver Funes Machada was charged Monday with first-degree murder after he called emergency services to say he had killed his mother, according to a Franklin County Sheriff's Office statement.

He did not resist arrest and the body of his 35-year-old mother, Yesenia Funez Beatriz Machado, was found inside the home.

Machada's attorney C. Boyd Sturges III, said: 'It does appear there's some substantial mental health issues involved in this case.

'I'm not a doctor, so I can't really elaborate. He's a pretty profoundly disturbed young man in a mental health kind of way.'

District Attorney Mike Waters said officials were seeking a mental evaluation of the suspect. Due to the suspect's apparent mental state, Waters said, 'this is something that's going to take weeks and months for us to get some answers as to why this happened.'



He allegedly walked into the street holding his mum's head (Picture: CBS)

The district attorney said the suspect was being transferred to Central Prison in Raleigh and his next court appearance was set for March 14.

Two young girls in the home were not hurt. A fourth child was in school when the attack occurred.

Neighbor Randy Mullins said he believes the other children were the

suspect's siblings.

Mullins was leaving his house minutes after the first deputy arrived and he said he saw the woman's head lying in the front yard about five feet from the porch.

The deputy appeared to have just handcuffed the suspect and seemed rattled when Mullins approached to ask if he needed help.

'You could see in his face he had a lot of concern. I'm not saying he was scared, but you could tell he was concerned,' Mullins said of the deputy.

Mullins then went back to his house across the street and told his 91-year-old mother to stay inside.



He said a half-dozen more law enforcement vehicles arrived within minutes and a deputy covered the woman's head.



The 18-year-old will undergo a mental health evaluation (Picture: CBS)

'I couldn't believe it. Things like that don't happen,' said Mullins, 59, who has lived in the neighborhood for 25 years.

'You can't believe somebody would do that. You hear about that, but it never happens across the street from you.'

On Tuesday, a group of friends or relatives went to the house where

the woman was killed, loading belongings including a stroller into two mini-vans.

The exact names of the suspect and his mother were unclear. Local court records list the suspect's name as Oliver Funes Machada, Sturges said, while Federal records list his name as Oliver Funes Machado, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox.

In a statement, Cox said the suspect was from Honduras and is believed to be in the country illegally.

Franklin County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Terry Wright gave the mother's name as Yesenia Beatriz Funez Machado, citing the spelling provided to authorities by her 14-year-old son.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man dies after he fell overboard and then got hit by his own boat

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.uk Monday 26 Dec 2016 11:15 am

The 37-year-old died after falling overboard and getting hit by his own boat (Picture: Getty Images)

The 37-year-old was one of two men on board the boat when they encountered rough seas just off Rottnest Island in Western Australia at about 6.30am on Monday.

Both men fell overboard and one was hit by the boat, suffering critical injuries.



(Picture: 7 News)

Another boat came to the rescue and Water Police and the Rottnest Ranger vessel also attended the scene but the man could not be saved.

Acting Inspector Andrew Maher told the ABC: 'It is believed they both fell overboard after the boat was hit by rough seas.'

Man dies after he fell overboard and then got hit by his own boat Credit: 7 News  
to be carried out.

A post-mortem examination is due

@MetroUK

© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited

[Back to top](#)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Stolen gun falls from inmate's body cavity during search at north Alabama jail

By Ashley Remkus | aremkus@al.com | Follow on Twitter on March 28, 2017 at 1:05 PM, updated March 28, 2017 at 1:14 PM

al.com

It's not yet clear whether the owner wants it back, but Limestone County authorities recovered a stolen gun when it fell from an inmate's body cavity during a search at the jail.

Jesse O'Neal Roberts, 23, of Elkmont, was being booked into the Limestone County Jail on a misdemeanor charge of public intoxication when the weapon fell from his body, said sheriff's spokesman Stephen Young.

This is a stock photo of the Jimenez .380-caliber pistol, like the one that fell from an inmate's body cavity in Limestone County.

"I immediately considered that he defecated on himself before noticing a familiar shape in the form of a pistol in his boxers," a corrections officer said in a report.

Roberts was arrested after midnight when deputies responded to a call about a prowler on Esten Lane. The caller found Roberts around his garage and held the suspect at gunpoint until deputies arrived, Young said in a news release.

Deputy Chad Harbin found Roberts, who was showing signs of impairment, and arrested him for public intoxication, Young said.

When they arrived at the jail, corrections officers noticed Roberts appeared to be walking "strangely," Young said.

While being searched, Roberts stumbled and the pistol fell from his body cavity, Young said.

The weapon, which was reported stolen from Florence, was not loaded. It is a Jimenez .380-caliber pistol valued at \$100.

In addition to public intoxication, Roberts is charged with first-degree promoting prison contraband, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and fourth-degree receiving stolen property. Bail is set at \$7,250.

Asked about the incident, Sheriff Mike Blakely said, " 'It' happens," according to the news release.

It's not yet clear whether the owner wants the gun back, authorities said.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

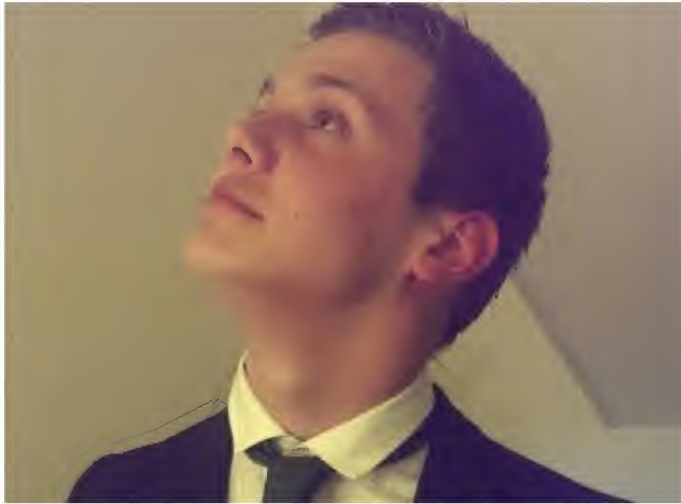


## Dutch teen heads for Sydney, Australia, finds Sydney, Nova Scotia

upi.com

Milan Schipper found an inexpensive flight from Amsterdam to Sydney, unaware he was traveling to Canada's Sydney.

By Ed Adamczyk | April 3, 2017 at 9:09 AM



Dutch traveler Milan Schipper boarded a plane in Amsterdam to visit Sydney, Australia. He ended up in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Photo courtesy of Marin Schipper/Facebook

April 3 (UPI) -- A Dutch teenager set out for Sydney, Australia, but accidentally caught a flight to Sydney, Nova Scotia, he admitted.

Milan Schipper found a flight from Amsterdam to Sydney which was \$300 less expensive than others, so he booked it. It took him to Toronto, and then onto a smaller Air Canada plane which took him to snowy Sydney, Nova Scotia, about 1,200 miles away on Canada's eastern coast.

"The plane [to Sydney] was really small and so I figured, would that make it to Australia?" He explained that after he boarded, "I saw the flight plan was going to go right, not left. It was about that time I realized there was another Sydney."

He arrived in Sydney, Nova Scotia, wearing a T-shirt, sweatpants and a thin jacket, as the city of 32,000 faced a blizzard. Sympathetic airport workers directed him to a plane returning to Toronto. He then traveled back to Amsterdam, where his father picked him up at the airport.

"He felt really sorry for me, but he thought only I could do such a thing. He also laughed an awful lot, just like everyone else," Schipper told CBC Radio. "I only saw the parking lot of the [Sydney] airport."

An online campaign to help the wayward traveler defray his expenses raised \$155 by Monday morning.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man found alive after night in mortuary refrigerator

kdvr.com

DURBAN, South Africa — It's the kind of story you'd hope would have a miraculously happy ending, but it wasn't to be in South Africa.

Last week, 28-year-old Msizi Mkhize was struck by a car in Durban and pronounced dead at the scene, reports the Times of London.

He was transferred to the local morgue and placed in the facility's refrigerator — only to be discovered alive the next day, when his family came to identify the body.

"A pulse was found in the patient by mortuary staff," said a provincial official.

Mkhize was rushed to the hospital, but he died five hours later.

Police and health officials have confirmed the story and say a formal inquiry is underway to figure out how the awful mistake happened.

"We arrived there at 8 a.m. to do the paperwork and view the body of my child," Mkhize's father tells the local Daily News. "It was after 12 p.m. when an employee told one of the doctors my son was alive."

Doctors began an intensive effort to warm and resuscitate Mkhize's body, but it was ultimately unsuccessful, reports the Citizen.

One official said staffers stayed beyond their shifts to help.

"I have no words to express how I feel about what happened to my child," Mkhize's father said. "To spend the entire night and morning in the mortuary refrigerator is wrong."

(This is not a first.)

This article originally appeared on Newser: [After a Night in Morgue Refrigerator, They Find a Pulse](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man infected with pig disease in freak laboratory accident

talkradio.co.uk

A fresh workplace accident led a Spanish man to be admitted into hospital with a completely new disease borne of pigs.

The 53-year-old man, who was employed to collect hazardous laboratory waste, was admitted to Zaragoza's Miguel Servet University Hospital in 2014, suffering from fever, joint discomfort and headaches.

An examination revealed he was suffering from a type of pig brucellosis, caused by a strain of bacteria which exists in only a handful of laboratories around the globe, El Pais reports.

The man is believed to have contracted the illness while collecting waste from the Centre for Research and Agro-Food Technology of Aragon, whose students were studying the strain for a doctoral thesis.

He is thought to have accidentally stepped on a contaminated syringe which punctured the sole of his boots. The needle should have been hermetically sealed, but its box somehow opened.

To add an even more improbable element to the story, the man suffered from an autoimmune disorder which inflamed his blood vessels and left him vulnerable to infection.

Doctors believe this is the first case in the world of an individual suffering from this strain of the bacteria. Regional governor Jose Maria Blasco Martinez said "it was like an airplane accident, the accumulation of a series of circumstances."

The man eventually overcame the disease with the help of antibiotics, but since the news became public, researchers have called for more stringent safety protocols to prevent similar occurrences.

© 2017 Wireless Group Limited. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy are applicable to you. All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Man is buried alive in coffin under city street after kissing wife goodbye

By Sarah Scott 21:49, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 23:01, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**Friends closed the lid of the casket and dumped soil on top of it after John Edwards climbed inside the box and laid down**



A husband kissed his wife goodbye before being buried in a coffin under a city street.

Friends and family closed the lid of the casket and dumped soil on top of it today after John Edwards climbed inside the box and laid down.

The pensioner is to spend three days inside the coffin in a hole dug with a JCB outside a church in

Belfast.

But he will at least have the benefit of mod cons including broadband internet.



*John Edwards being buried alive*

John hopes the stunt will help raise awareness for those suffering from addiction and depression .

The former addict founded the charity Walking Free, which helps people who are suicidal and those with addiction.

He will live stream help and advice to addicts from inside his coffin.

Comment Below

"I'm a former addict and I've been clean and sober for 25 years," John said.

"I'm making a very large coffin, I'm burying it in East Belfast and I'm going to live in it for three days."

During his three-day stint in the coffin, John will be broadcasting stories of hope from his temporary underground home to help those who are struggling.

"I know this is a radical move but people are continually contacting me who are either suicidal or who know friends or family who are," he told Belfast Live .

"My plan is to speak to them from the grave before they get there and show them hope."



*John Edwards being buried alive*



*John Edwards being buried alive*



*A kiss from wife Trish*

A piece of ground alongside Willowfield Parish Church, in the east of the city, was prepared for the stunt as JCBs dug a hole to accommodate a coffin.

The coffin, big enough for John to sit up and lie down in, has been kitted out with electrics and broadband.

The live stream from the coffin will be broadcast on the Walking Free website and live on Facebook.

John will take calls, emails, Skype and texts from people around the world, who in turn will share their stories, live streaming through the coffin.

It is hoped the feed will reach millions around the world.

"People will communicate with me how they have navigated and overcome trauma, suicide attempts, coping with addicted children or family members as well as addiction to substance and behavior," he said.

John, a committed Christian who has been happily married to wife Trish for 20 years, said he is both privileged and humbled to help those who've lost hope.

Willowfield rector David McClay said: "John is going into the coffin on Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent. The season of Lent is one when Christians talk about dying to ourselves.

"But the message from the grave is one of hope - hope for those who are struggling with addictions, hope for those who feel life is hopeless, and hope of life that is eternal.

"John knows that he is going to be buried on March 1. The rest of us don't know when we will be buried, when our lives will end - but for every Christian there is the confident hope of life forever because of what Jesus has won for us on the cross.

"He did it so that we don't have to pay the price for our sin and guilt. John Edwards demonstrates the amazing transformation that Jesus can bring to our lives. I invite you to join in the live streaming of this event and hear for yourself."





*John Edwards being buried alive*



*John's wife Trish places a gravestone after John was buried alive*



*John looking up through an air pipe from 6ft under*

John's exploits can be followed on Twitter using the hashtag #GraveChat - and is also streaming video from inside the coffin on his Facebook page.





John Edwards being buried alive

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Man posing as crew member busted at JFK Airport with \$85K worth of cocaine in suitcase

pix11.com



JAMAICA, N.Y. — The traveler may have been inspired by Leonardo DiCaprio in ‘Catch Me if You Can’, but fortunately U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport have seen this movie before.

CBP officers intercepted passenger Mario Hudson, a citizen of Jamaica, on March 27, as he was arriving from Kingston, Jamaica.

*Mario Hudson was arrested for the import of a controlled substance and was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations.*

Hudson was dressed in what appeared to be a pilot’s uniform and

claimed he was a “dead-heading crew member.” During the baggage inspection, CBP officers discovered that Hudson had what appeared to be two fraudulent Delta Airlines ID badges.

During the examination of Hudson’s luggage, CBP officers noticed that the sides and bottom appeared to be unusually thick and heavy. Hudson was escorted to a private search room where his suitcase was probed revealing a white powder that tested positive for cocaine.

Hudson was arrested for the import of a controlled substance and was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations. The total weight of cocaine seized was approximately five pounds with an estimated street value of \$85,000.

“This seizure demonstrates the vigilance and dedication demonstrated daily by CBP officers at JFK, in keeping these prohibited and dangerous narcotics off the streets of our communities,” said Leon Hayward, acting Director, Field Operations in New York for CBP.

Hudson faces federal narcotics smuggling charges and will be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the U.S. Eastern District Court of New York.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man walks kangaroo down Detroit street, baffles Internet

upi.com

March 28 (UPI) -- A Snapchat user in Detroit captured video of a man walking -- or, rather, hopping -- a highly unusual pet for the area: a kangaroo.

Twitter user @BrionnaLondon posted a video captured from Snapchat Monday night showing a man walking down Birchcrest Drive, near the Detroit Golf Club, with a kangaroo on a leash.

The man appears to be trying to walk the animal like a dog, but ends up being pulled along by the marsupial as it hops down the sidewalk.

"G how he get a kangaroo in Detroit?" the Twitter user asked.

The question was echoed by numerous replies to the tweet, some of which theorized the kangaroo was stolen from a local zoo.

Detroit Zoo spokeswoman Patricia Janeway offered a different possibility.

"Unfortunately, this kangaroo likely was acquired through the exotic pet trade," Janeway told CBS Detroit. "This is a good opportunity to remind your readers about the consequences of keeping an exotic animal as a pet. These animals require special care, housing, proper diet, healthcare and maintenance that the average person cannot provide."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Man who led gang of 'Hollywood-style bank robbers' jailed for 20 years

talkradio.co.uk

A man who led a gang of burglars through Hollywood-style bank robberies has been jailed for 20 years.

Alceu Johnny Andreis was already serving 51 months in jail for an attempted bank robbery, but has now been convicted of two counts, according to The Guardian.

A federal judge has also ordered him to pay \$12 million (£9.64 million) in restitution, as well as forfeit four Ducati motorcycles and two Mercedes-Benz cars which he had bought with the proceeds of the gang's crimes.

According to prosecutors Andreis was the leader of a group of people who robbed banks across southern California.

Members of the gang would cut holes in the roofs of the buildings to gain access, using ropes.

They were also able to disable security systems, according to evidence, and jackhammered through concrete bank vaults to access the money, communicating with each other with walkie-talkies.

The court heard the gang were made to wear identical clothes and shoes by Andreis. He also tested the members for drugs.

Equipment was wiped down by the group so that DNA or fingerprints were not left behind.

Prosecutors also say that three members of the gang have pled guilty to charges in connection with the robberies.

© 2017 Wireless Group Limited. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy are applicable to you. All rights reserved.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## A Popular '40s Map of American Folklore Was Destroyed by Fears of Communism

atlasobscura.com

The government saw Red when looking at William Gropper's painting of the United States.

by Kyle Carsten Wyatt  
March 27, 2017



William Gropper's map of American folklore. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

During World War II, the painter, illustrator, and cartoonist William Gropper offered his services to the U.S. Treasury Department and the White House's Office of War Information. He received a "Citation in recognition of fine assistance" from the Treasury Department and personal thanks from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for "giving pictorial form to specific war information objectives" through propaganda posters and paintings. It seemed logical that after the war, the State Department, too, would find value in the famous artist's social-realist portrayal of American culture—a logic that would soon find Gropper trapped within the surrealist labyrinth of McCarthyism.

Between 1946 and 1953, the State Department's Overseas Library Program collected and distributed some 1,744 copies of *William Gropper's America: Its Folklore*, a colorful depiction of 61 legends, tall tales, and literary heroes—characters like super-sized cowboy Pecos Bill in New Mexico, steel-driving phenom John Henry in Alabama, and witty trickster Br'er Rabbit in Georgia—superimposed over a familiar projection of the Lower 48.

The purchase was part of postwar efforts to disseminate "facts and solidly documented explanations of the United States." Based on a painting Gropper completed in 1945, the 34-by-23-inch pictorial map was published by Associated American Artists, and sold by mail order—\$5.00 unframed, \$14.50 mounted—in the *New York Times*, *Life*, and other popular publications. An accompanying 16-page brochure told viewers more about Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed, and their folkloric ilk.



While the State Department exploited the map's propaganda potential abroad—its playful characterization of America as a fun-loving, welcoming, and, most important, free land—librarians and teachers took advantage of its educational usefulness at home. Throughout the late '40s and early '50s, newspapers from coast to coast ran stories about students studying literature with the help of *America: Its Folklore*. Municipal libraries even lent framed copies, making it easy for students to



Folklore figures including Paul Bunyan (left) and Calamity Jane (right). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Huck Finn, Davy Crockett, and Daniel Boone in action. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Construction of a Dam, a mural Gropper painted in 1939, was commissioned by the federal government for public display. Public Domain Public Domain Folklore featured included animals Br'er Rabbit and the Boll Weevil. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division



Folklore figures including Paul Bunyan (left) and Calamity Jane (right). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Huck Finn, Davy Crockett, and Daniel Boone in action. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Construction of a Dam, a mural Gropper painted in 1939, was commissioned by the federal government for public display. Public Domain Public Domain Folklore featured included animals Br'er Rabbit and the Boll Weevil. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

show off their newfound knowledge at home.

But the cartographic darling fell from grace in the spring of 1953, when attorney Roy Cohn toured State Department libraries around the world as part of his and Senator Joseph McCarthy's crusade against Communism. Cohn identified William Gropper as one of the "fringe supporters and sympathizers" whose supposedly Communist-directed works had infiltrated the Overseas Library Program. Gropper was promptly subpoenaed to appear before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations—and earned the dubious distinction of being among the first blacklisted artists in McCarthy-era America.

Gropper arrived on Capitol Hill looking "as rumpled as the sofa in front of the television set," as one commentator observed. Surrounded by Klieg lights, television cameras, police, and press, his interrogation began simply, with chief counsel Cohn asking, "Are you a member

of the Communist Party?" As far as Cohn and McCarthy were concerned, they already knew the answer. But after the artist invoked the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer so as not to bear witness against himself, Cohn pressed:

**Mr. Cohn:** Are you the William Gropper who has prepared various maps?

**Mr. Gropper:** I don't understand that question. Prepared various maps?

**Mr. Cohn:** Did you prepare a map entitled "America, Its Folklore"?

**Mr. Gropper:** Have you got the map here?

**Mr. Cohn:** No; I don't have the map here. Did you prepare a map entitled "America, Its Folklore"?

**Mr. Gropper:** I painted a map on American folklore, yes.

Gropper explained that he had received an advance from Associated American Artists, but that "no royalties came in." Cohn wanted to know if part of Gropper's advance had supported Communist causes. Again, Gropper pleaded the Fifth Amendment. When Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri asked the painter if an individual "could be a member of the Communist party and at the same time be a good, loyal American," Gropper demurred: "I would rather talk about my field, where I am equipped. I don't understand these things." Moments later, Gropper tried to distance himself further from his celebrated pictorial map, explaining, "I don't even make maps. I am a painter."

No matter that Gropper had, in fact, tried his hand at mapmaking; no matter that Gropper was not, in





Folklore figures including Paul Bunyan (left) and Calamity Jane (right). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division  
Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Huck Finn, Davy Crockett, and Daniel Boone in action. Library of  
Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Construction of a Dam , a  
mural Gropper painted in 1939, was commissioned by the federal government for public display. Public Domain Public  
Domain Folklore featured included animals Br'er Rabbit and the Boll Weevil. Library of Congress, Geography and Map  
Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

fact, a Communist. The damage was done. The next day, the left-leaning, 55-year-old Jewish artist from Brooklyn found his name on the front page of national and local newspapers. The message sent down from McCarthy's perch in the Senate was clear: William Gropper was a Red. His map was un-American.

There is nothing immediately offensive or subversive about *America: Its Folklore*. True, contemporary folklore purists may have taken issue with it for including so-called tall tales and legends that originated in print culture rather than oral tradition (Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle appears, for example, as do Mark Twain's Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and E.E. Hale's Philip Nolan). But to quibble with the American scene that Gropper depicted would be scholarly inside-baseball indeed. What matters is that overnight—thanks to what he would later describe as the “American Inquisition”—his work became the most notorious pictorial map in history.



Folklore figures including Paul Bunyan (left) and Calamity Jane (right). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Huck Finn, Davy Crockett, and Daniel Boone in action. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Construction of a Dam , a mural Gropper painted in 1939, was commissioned by the federal government for public display. Public Domain Public Domain Folklore featured included animals Br'er Rabbit and the Boll Weevil. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

Today extant copies of *America: Its Folklore* are exceedingly rare. The Library of Congress has two examples, while the Illinois State Library and the University of Michigan each have a copy, as do a handful of others. Well-loved survivors do surface from time to time—a paltry \$9.99 on eBay in 2010, \$120 from a pair of pickers in Michigan in 2017—but never with the original supplementary brochure.

One could argue that the blacklist led to the map's erasure from popular culture, and there is some evidence to support that interpretation. The State

Department systematically destroyed its 1,744 copies. Surely many domestic institutions did the

same. But even after *America: Its Folklore* scandalized Washington and led to the downfall of its creator, teachers continued to use it in their classrooms.

Indeed, another way to explain the map's scarcity today is through its enduring popularity yesterday. Teachers, librarians, and especially students literally used it to pieces (and most copies that do survive bear physical witness to that use). Perhaps the greatest testament to its contemporary appeal is the vacuum it left when thousands of copies were destroyed on purpose and countless more were destroyed by exchanging hands in classrooms, public libraries, and living rooms.

Within a year of Gropper's Capitol Hill evisceration, the National Conference of American Folklore for Youth began selling a similarly sized, similarly whimsical *American Folklore & Legends* by John Dukes McKee, because, as the *English Journal* put it, teachers across the country "kept asking for [it]." And after that map went out of print a few years later, the General Drafting Company produced Frank Soltesz's *Folklore and Legends of Our Country* in 1960 for distribution in Esso gas stations—the perfect cartographic distraction for kids in the back of the family station wagon, while their parents argued about politics.

*Map Monday highlights interesting and unusual cartographic pursuits from around the world and through time. Read more Map Monday posts.*

© 2017 Atlas Obscura. All rights reserved.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Man convicted of not filing taxes over 'mark of the beast'

Mar. 8, 2017, 9:51 AM 16

2017-03-08

businessinsider.com

# BUSINESS INSIDER

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania man has been convicted of failing to file his income tax returns for 21 years because he considered using a Social Security number akin to using the "mark of the beast" spelled out in the Bible.

James Schlosser, who lives in the town of Bird-in-Hand, was convicted in federal

court in Allentown on Tuesday.

Prosecutors say by failing to file the returns from 1994 to 2014 he didn't report \$2.3 million in income he earned as a salesman of medical equipment. Prosecutors say he funneled the money through foreign business trusts and corporations he registered in Nevada.

An attorney for the 59-year-old Schlosser didn't immediately comment Wednesday. He'll be sentenced June 10 when he faces a maximum of five years in prison and \$450,000 in fines.

- \* Copyright © 2017 Business Insider Inc. All rights reserved. Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## The Virgin Mary: Now With 800% More Tentacles - Creators

vice.com

### The Virgin Mary: Now With 800% More Tentacles

J.H. Fearless

Feb 19 2017, 4:55am



*Jeans Marie, 2015 Pokemum, 2013 Kissing, 2007 Lady Octopus, 2015 Holy Force Holy Light Bloody Mercy Nymphs*

**Thanks to French artist Soasig Chamailard, the Holy Mother has more looks than Madonna.**

Holy Mary, mother of invention: these re-created statuettes turn the Blessed Virgin into an imagination of what women can be, feel, and represent.

"In 2005, my father gave me a statuette he found in a secondhand shop," Soasig Chamailard, the loving guardian and creator of these multidimensional Marys, tells

Creators. "Part of her foot and her pedestal were broken. I liked this object very much but I didn't want to display it in my house. I found it was too difficult to face her every day. I feared she was reminding me that I would never be a perfect woman."



*Jeans Marie, 2015*

Chamailard put the Mary statuette in her studio and says "we observed each other for a year." Eventually, the fear subsided and she decided to reconstruct poor Mary's foot and pedestal. In doing so, something magical happened: "I gave something of myself to her." The artist realized she and Mary could work together, and she immediately reclothed her in something more interesting.

"I understood quickly that this work could last a long time, to achieve its full form and not fall into cliché," Chamailard says. While you and I might see these Mary transformations as something cute, even kitschy, for the artist it's an examination of womanhood, of spirituality, of customs and habits (pun intended).

The reaction is mostly positive, but now and then she encounters enraged Catholics. Once, a show was canceled under pressure from religious groups. Then, on the other hand, a convent once sold her a lot of statuettes with the full knowledge of what they were for. "It's not a problem of beliefs, but of openness of spirit," Chamailard says.

Now her studio is full of statuettes, patiently awaiting their transformations. She often sculpts in plaster, or models with resin directly onto individual Marys. "I admit that sometimes I traumatize toys, using them to make molds so I can recreate them in plaster or resin," she says.

*Pokemum, 2013*

To this day, Chamaillard collaborates creatively with her subjects, allowing divine inspiration to flow through her. *Kissing*, for example, was created in a moment of serendipitous grace.

*Kissing, 2007*

"In two different secondhand shops, the same day, I found two identical busts of the Virgin Mary. It was unbelievable to find these two perfectly identical models. I didn't know what I was going to do with them, but I bought them. I asked myself, 'Why not?' Maybe I could work on their twinliness?" she says. "I placed them on my desk. I observed them. I played with them, and then moved them aside. And suddenly, they were kissing! The slight inclination of the head made them kiss each other perfectly. I found that incredible! I told

myself that this was absolutely the kind of message of love and tolerance that I wanted to share with my work."

"I admire the artists who dedicate their lives to developing an idea. They are often considered to be a little nutty," Chamaillard says. "I love those nut jobs. They often leave behind an oeuvre unbelievably rich in meaning, because this work took a lifetime of reflection."

*Lady Octopus, 2015**Holy Force**Holy Light**Bloody Mercy*

Look for more Madonna statuettes on Chamaillard's website, at Galerie Caroline Tresca in Paris, or at the Galerie Albane in Nantes.

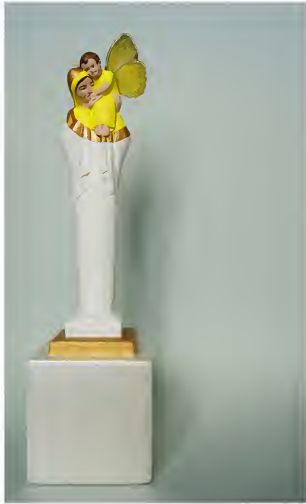
Related:

*Hyperrealistic Sculptor Flips "Adam and Eve" On Their Heads*

*Reframing "White Jesus"*

*Famous Masterpieces Get A Tech Makeover For The 21st Century*

© 2017 VICE Media LLC



Nymphs

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Mass grave found at former Catholic mother and baby home

10:08 EST, 3 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

Mass graves are found in disused sewers at a former Catholic home for unmarried mothers in Ireland following decades of suspicion that hundreds of babies were buried in unmarked sites

### Remains found at Bon Secours Mother and Baby

Home in County Galway, Ireland

- There could be as many as 800 dead, ranging from 35 weeks to three years old
- The bodies may have been placed in an old sewer, which was disused in 1937
- In the 1970s, local boys found a pile of bones in an underground chamber

By Fionn Hargreaves For Mailonline and Alison O'reilly For The Daily Mail

A mass grave containing the remains of babies and young children has been discovered at a former Catholic home for unmarried mothers and their children in Ireland, an official report revealed today.

The remains were found in a disused sewer during excavations at the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway.

The ages of the dead ranged from 35 foetal weeks to three years old and were mostly buried in the 1950s.



A mass grave containing the remains of babies and young children has been discovered at the former Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway. Pictured today, the covered over field

Excavations found 'significant quantities of human remains' in an underground structure divided into 20 chambers. The children's ages ranged from 35 foetal weeks to three years old

Pictured, the field in 2014, before excavations began. Workmen are seen surveying the ground

In a statement today, the Mother and Baby Homes Commission said 'significant quantities of human remains have been discovered in at least 17 of the 20 underground chambers which were examined earlier this year'.

The inquiry was launched after local historian Catherine Corless said there was evidence of an unmarked graveyard at the home, where records showed almost 800 children died between 1925 and 1961.

However, there was a burial record for just one child.

Pictured, a plaque erected in memory of the adults and children buried on the site



In the mid-1970s, local boys playing in the field had reported seeing a pile of bones in a hidden underground chamber there. Pictured, the home when it housed women and children





The find also dispels a popular argument that bones seen at the site might predate the orphanage's opening, when the building was a workhouse for the adult poor. Pictured, a group of children at the home in 1924

The Mother and Baby Homes commission is investigating 17 other church-run institutions. Others have claimed that the pile of bones found dated back to the Great Famine in the 19th century

In the mid-1970s, local boys playing in the field had reported seeing a pile of bones in a hidden underground chamber.

Today's announcement dispels a popular argument that bones seen at the site might predate the orphanage's opening, when the building was a workhouse for the adult poor.

Some have even claimed that they were from people who died in the mid-19th century Great Famine.

**My grandmother died in Tuam but we had no idea where she was buried. Until 2015...**

Kathleen Tully (centre) died in the home from septicæmia four months after giving birth to daughter Catherine



Ms Corless also revealed that nine mothers died in the home during its existence.

Burial records only existed for four of the women.

It is unknown where Mary Hickey, Mary Joyce, Bridget O'Reilly, Annie Roughneen and Margaret Henry are buried.

Annie and Margaret had children – Annie and James respectively – who also died and are among the 796 children believed to be in the

mass grave.

In 2015, the Irish Mail on Sunday were able to tell the family of Kathleen Tully that she was buried in the family plot in Dunmore – but that her name was never carved on the headstone.

In 2015, the Irish Mail on Sunday told the family of Kathleen Tully that she was buried in the family plot. But daughter Catherine had already died not knowing she had visited Kathleen's resting place in 2008

Catherine's daughter Teresa (pictured left, right) said: 'It is a bittersweet tragedy'. Pictured right, Catherine taking holy communion as a child

Her daughter Catherine, who was born in the Tuam home, came from London to search for her mother.





She visited the family grave but died in 2008 without ever learning that her mother was buried there.

Kathleen Tully gave birth to Catherine in the home but died four months later from septicaemia.

Daughter Catherine (centre) stayed at the home until she was five and moved to London to search for her mother.



Kathleen had been buried in Catherine's grandparent's graves due to the stigma attached to marriage out of wedlock

An orphaned Catherine stayed at the home until she was five years old.

Unknown to Catherine, Kathleen's body was buried in her grandparents grave, but it wasn't marked because of the stigma associated with illegitimate births.

Catherine's daughter Theresa McHugh Waldron, from London, said it was a 'bittersweet tragedy'.

Ireland's Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone said today's news was 'sad and disturbing', adding that the commission of inquiry would work with local authorities to investigate further and decide what should happen to the remains.

Historian Catherine Corless said: 'Everything pointed to this area being a mass grave.

'All that matters now is the truth is out there. I always knew the children were buried there and now we have the facts.

'It is such an important story, I'm totally shocked and speechless but I'm happy and it is important now to remember the families of these little angels, their loved ones and how badly they were treated.





'I have worked so hard with the families of these children, they all need to be found and identified and matched to their birth certificates.'

'The Commission needs to continue its work and we need to full facts of what happened here.'

Ms Corless said she found records stating that the sewage systems were used until 1937, when the home was connected to a modern water supply.

The government's commissioner for children, Katherine Zappone said: 'It was not unexpected as there were claims about human remains on the site over the last number of years.'



In 2014, local historian Catherine Corless found death certificates for nearly 800 children, but a burial record for only one child

'Up to now we had rumours. Now we have confirmation that the remains are there and that they date back to the time of the mother-and-baby home, which operated in Tuam from 1925 to 1961.'

'We will honour their memory and make sure that we take the right actions now to treat their remains appropriately.'

The Bon Secours Sisters order of nuns, which ran the home until its closure, said in a statement that all its records, including of potential burials, had been handed to state authorities in 1961.

It pledged to cooperate with the continuing investigation.

Corless criticised the Bon Secours response as 'the usual maddening nonsense. They must apologise and take responsibility for what happened there.'

She called on the nuns to promise explicitly to help the state organise proper marked burial places for every dead child once each set of remains could be identified.



The ages of the dead ranged from 35 weeks to three years old and were mostly buried in the 1950s. Pictured, workmen putting up scaffolding before a preliminary excavation in October 2016

A helpline has been set up to support people who are affected by the news. Test excavations took place in October 2016 and took around six weeks to complete (file photo from 2014)

'That's the least that can be done for them at this late stage,' she said.

The Irish police, the Galway coroner and the Galway County Council have all been notified while a helpline has been set up for anyone affected by

the news.

### The three-year investigation

The investigation was formed in 2014 by the government when local historian Catherine Corless warned that there could be up to 800 children buried at the site.



Ms Corless revealed that nine mothers also died at the home, but there are only four burial certificates.

The five remaining women were Mary Hickey, Mary Joyce, Bridget O'Reilly, Annie Roughneen and Margaret Henry.

But excavators found children's remains inside a neighbouring connected structure that may have been used to contain sewage or waste water.

In 2014, the Archbishop of Dublin said that 'if something happened in Tuam, it probably happened in other mother-and-baby homes around the country.'

The Mother and Baby Homes commission is investigating 17 other church-run institutions.

Test excavation at the site of the children's burial ground began in October 2016 and took around six weeks to complete.

The inquiry was established to investigate 14 mother and baby homes where unmarried mothers and their babies were placed in order to avoid the social stigma in what was then a deeply Catholic country.

The Commission said it was shocked by the discovery and is continuing its investigation into who was responsible for the disposal of human remains in this way.

The mother and baby home era is one of the last dark secrets of Catholic run Ireland.



The ages of the dead ranged from 35 weeks to three years old and were mostly buried in the 1950s (file picture from 2014)

The Bon Secours Sisters order of nuns, which ran the home until its closure, said in a statement that all its records, including of potential burials, had been handed to state authorities in 1961 (file photo from 2014)

### **Mother-and-baby homes in Ireland in the early 20th century**

The Church ran many mother-and-baby homes where tens of thousands of unmarried pregnant women, including rape victims, were sent to give birth.

Unmarried mothers and their children were seen as a stain on Ireland's image as a devout Catholic nation.

Government records show that in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, the mortality rate for 'illegitimate' children was often more than five times that of those born to married parents.

On average, more than one in four children born out of wedlock died.





Further investigations carried out by Ms Corless reveal that nine mothers died in the home during its existence. But burial records exist for only four of the nine

```
/* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }
```



## 'I have to help them': Tennessee woman won't stop massaging horses despite risk of jail time

2017/02/23

cbc.ca

Thursday February 23, 2017

### 'I have to help them': Tennessee woman won't stop massaging horses despite risk of jail time



*Laurie Wheeler poses with her horse Jazz. Wheeler is fighting the state of Tennessee, which has barred her from practising massage therapy on horses without a veterinary licence. (Laurie Wheeler)*

[Read Story Transcript](#)

Every time Laurie Wheeler massages a horse, she risks six months in jail or a \$500 fine.

"When I get a call from a friend whose horse is in the hospital and she's desperate, I'm gonna go," the Leiper's Fork, Tenn., woman told *As It Happens* guest host Helen Mann. "So here I am in the equine hospital doing what I've been told I can't do or I'll go to jail."

Wheeler practises a technique

called myofascial release, which she says she learned at the Motion For Life school in Indiana. She says she often gets calls from local veterinarians to help out a horse in pain.

'Even if I did go to veterinary school, which is basically what they're telling me I would have to do to massage horses, I wouldn't learn massage therapy.' - Laurie Wheeler, horse masseuse

"People don't know how to take care of their horses in general. They ride 'em, they use 'em up and they don't understand nutrition," she said.

"I've seen about every muscle, every part of the body on a horse, just hurting."

She says business was booming until she decided to apply to become a licensed massage therapist to practise on humans, and included a recommendation letter from vet she often works with.

That letter, she says, got flagged to the Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, who sent her a cease-and-desist order, barring her from working on horses without a veterinary licence.

Wheeler calls this "an extreme case of government overreaching."

"Even if I did go to vet school, which is basically what they're telling me I would have to do to massage horses, I wouldn't learn massage therapy in veterinary school. It's not even a part of their curriculum."

Wheeler points out that under the guidelines, while she can't massage horses, farmers can castrate and de-horn their own animals.

"It makes absolutely no sense," she says.

### 'A lot of harm can come from them'

Reached for comment by *As It Happens*, the Tennessee veterinary board said massage falls under the category of "complementary, alternative and integrative therapies" under its guidelines, and can only be practiced by a third party under the supervision of a veterinarian, who would assume responsibility for the animal's health.

The board would not comment directly on Wheeler's case.

Rules governing who can practise animal massage vary from state to state. Earlier this month, animal massage therapists won a lawsuit against the state of Arizona that allows them to practise legally without a veterinary license.



In a 2014 Associated Press story about the rising popularity of animal massage, Adrian Hochstadt of the American Veterinary Medical Association said: "We do consider them veterinary procedures, and we feel the same standards should be used because a lot of harm can come from them."

*As It Happens* has reached out to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association for an overview rules north of the border.

Wheeler, meanwhile, continues to plying her trade legally people and illegally on horses, insisting no harm can come of it.

"I just can't help it," she said. "I have to help them."

To encourage thoughtful and respectful conversations, first and last names will appear with each submission to CBC/Radio-Canada's online communities (except in children and youth-oriented communities). Pseudonyms will no longer be permitted.

By submitting a comment, you accept that CBC has the right to reproduce and publish that comment in whole or in part, in any manner CBC chooses. Please note that CBC does not endorse the opinions expressed in comments. Comments on this story are moderated according to our Submission Guidelines. Comments are welcome while open. We reserve the right to close comments at any time.

### Submission Policy

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are moderated and published according to our submission guidelines.

CBC

Radio-Canada

©2017 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved

Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Massive gold coin worth millions stolen from German museum

ap.org

By DAVID RISING  
Mar. 27, 2017 10:53 AM EDT



Germany Museum Heist

FILE - The Dec. 12, 2010 file photo shows the gold coin 'Big Maple Leaf' in the Bode Museum in... [Read more](#)

By: DAVID RISING (AP)  
BERLIN Copyright 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

BERLIN (AP) — Thieves broke into the German capital's Bode Museum before dawn Monday and made off with a massive 100-kilogram (221-pound) gold coin worth millions of dollars, police said.

Police spokesman Steffen Petersen said thieves apparently entered through a window about 3:30 a.m. Monday, broke into a cabinet where the "Big Maple Leaf" coin was kept, and escaped with it before police arrived.

A ladder was found by nearby railway tracks.

The three-centimeter (1.18-inch) thick coin, with a diameter of 53 centimeters (20.9 inches), has a face value of 1 million Canadian dollars (\$750,000). By weight alone, however, it would be worth almost \$4.5 million at market prices.

Petersen would not comment on whether authorities had surveillance video of the crime, but said police assume more than one person was involved because of the weight of the coin.

The museum says the coin is in the Guinness Book of Records for its purity of 999.99/1000 gold. It has a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on one side and maple leaves on the other.

It was produced in limited quantities by the Royal Canadian Mint to promote a new line of its Gold Maple Leaf bullion coins in 2007. It has been on display at the Bode Museum, on Berlin's Museum Island, since December 2010.

Berlin museums spokesman Markus Farr said the coin is on loan from a private collection, but would not elaborate.

Detectives specialized in crimes involving art are investigating.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Australian town's massive watermelon fight: How smashing fruit became more profitable than selling them

stuff.co.nz

### **stuff** Australian town's massive watermelon fight: How smashing fruit became more profitable than selling them

JORGE BRANCO

Last updated 10:36, February 21 2017

The Chinchilla melon festival generates \$3.5 million annually, by enticing visitors to the town to destroy more than a thousand watermelons.

Another sticky, melon-covered body slips and smacks into a rapidly expanding mound of ravaged fruit.

Thousands revel in the joyous destruction that is watermelon-skiing as the sweet, juicy flesh sprays like blood and the crowd shouts encouragement.

On the ground, roughly 1100 melons lay like carcasses, the victims of watermelon-themed iron man, chariot racing and all manner of other quasi-sports with "multiple hazardous outcomes" where "injuries are likely" and melon madness is guaranteed.



The town's footy team and Bruce, the mechanical pulling machine, ensure the long, black, fruity slip-and-slide has a constant stream of willing victims in their watermelon clogs.

Across one weekend every second February, the population of this rural Australian town two hours' north-west of Toowoomba swells from 5500 to up to 15,000 in an ode to all that is melon.

*Jessica Courtnie Photography According to organisers, attendees ate more than 800 melons and smashed another 1100.*

From Thursday to Saturday just

gone, more than 700 visitors pitched tents or parked caravans in town, with many more staying in other accommodation nearby or driving in for the day.

According to organisers, revellers ate more than 800 melons and smashed another 1100, roughly 20-25 tonnes in total, all donated by local farmers.

There were complaints of food wastage, but for farmers who might have earned a few dollars a kilo before Christmas, and much less now, it was melon well spent.

Two years ago, economic consultant Reuben Lawrence helped the Western Downs Council calculate the Chinchilla Melon Festival's economic value to the town.





Jessica Courtne Photography Another punter braves the intrepid, pulpy skiing.

Using attendance numbers of roughly 15,000 combined with average spend per day and a few other figures, they came to an estimated \$3.5 million of benefit the festival brings to town.

According to festival president Doug McNally, that means each tonne of fruit destroyed or handed out brings in more than \$125,000.

"That's some of the most profitable fruit you'll ever see," said Terry O'Leary, whose family was one of first to grow seedless melons.

Clearly, not all of that money went back to the farmers (Club Hotel owner Justin Burn, who supplied the festival as well as doing a roaring trade himself, guessed roughly 150,000 tinnies helped lubricate the masses) but Mr O'Leary said it was more than worth it.



Jessica Courtne Photography Chinchilla Melon Festival attendees have an eating competition.



Jessica Courtne Photography "That's some of the most profitable fruit you'll ever see."





Jessica Courtnie Photography A Chinchilla Melon Festival attendee revels in the watermelon-skiing.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Flying Mattress Strikes Biker At 50 MPH, Cushions His Fall

huffingtonpost.com

**“I thought I was a goner for sure.”**

By Lee Moran

This is terror at 50 miles per hour.

A motorbike rider somehow avoided serious injury after a flying mattress struck him on a highway.

Aaron Wood was riding through the Clem7 tunnel in Brisbane, Australia, last Tuesday when the bedding fell from a pickup truck's cage trailer and into his path.

“I thought I was a goner for sure,” Wood told The Queensland Times. “I have been riding for 20 years and never had something like this happen.”

Incredibly, the squishy mattress got trapped under his front wheel and helped bring his motorbike to a stop — without him falling onto the ground.

Queensland Police released surveillance footage of the dramatic incident. It enabled them to identify the Toyota's driver, who now reportedly faces a \$275 fine for traveling with an unsecured load.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

**'Very comfortable' medieval castle goes on sale for just £1.3million** dailymail.co.uk

**Room with NO view: Medieval castle goes on sale for just £1.3million - complete with vaulted great hall and minstrels' gallery but hardly any WINDOWS**

- **The medieval property at Cartron, Kilmaine in County Mayo is on the market for just £1,321,350**
- **The historic stone building is surrounded by 13 acres of land, including a meadow garden and a paddock**
- **For Harry Potter fans, the castle even has a Great Hall, which is fully kitted out for medieval banquets**

By Hannah Al-Othman For MailOnline

A unique opportunity has arisen to become Lord of Lady of a genuine medieval castle.

History buffs will be keen to snap up the real castle in picturesque Irish countryside - if they have £1,300,000 to spare.

The 'very-well restored and very comfortable' castle has views of stunning St Patrick's Mountain - but it may be a little hard to catch sight of it through the building's traditional slit windows.

Although it may be a little dark inside, the £1,321,350 property at Cartron, Kilmaine in County Mayo is the only private castle in Ireland with en-suite facilities, which means scaling the spiral staircase in nothing but a towel has been banished to the history books.

The historic stone building is surrounded by 13 acres of land, including a meadow garden with an ornamental pond and fruit trees, a massive paddock with a tree plantation at the centre, a spring and a medieval quarry site.

The lavish castle, which is approved for civil weddings, is also surrounded by mature trees, which provide a source of firewood for the roaring log fires inside, and it has five en-suite bedrooms spread over five floors, which are linked by an elegant spiral staircase.

And for Harry Potter fans, the castle even has a Great Hall, which is fully kitted out for medieval banquets, with a vaulted ceiling, huge fire-place, a minstrels gallery, and a large stained glass window, as well as a serving hatch to the kitchen.

A genuine medieval castle in Cartron, Kilmaine in County Mayo is up for grabs for £1,321,350

The ancient castle has stunning views of St Patrick's Mountain from the its traditional slit windows

Although the bedrooms are comfortable and elegantly furnished, the stone walls maintain the atmosphere of the castle

The wrought iron bed frames and medieval-style tapestries also help to give the sleeping quarters a traditional feel





There is a great hall fit for medieval-style banquets, which is even decorated with shields and coats of arms

The building comes with 13 acres of land, which include a meadow garden with an ornamental pond and fruit trees

The building is spread over five floors, with an elegant spiral staircase in between, and plenty of space for entertaining guests

Although the building is ancient it has a modern kitchen, with a serving hatch to the Great Hall for all those banquets and formal dinners

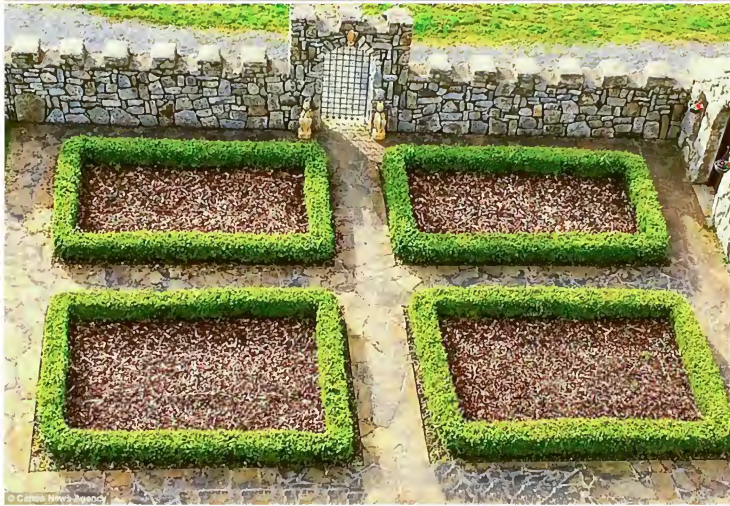
The Castle is currently being run as a business, and comes with a ceremony room next to the formal garden, where weddings can take place

The building is the only private Castle in Ireland with en-suite facilities - and the rooms also have huge king size beds

The castle is described as 'very well restored and very comfortable' - an ideal home for a

history buff







/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## White House Releases Melania Trump's Official Portrait

talkingpointsmemo.com

Published Since 2000

26467  
Views

The White House released first lady Melania Trump's official portrait Monday.

"I am honored to serve in the role of First Lady, and look forward to working on behalf of the American people over the coming years," Trump's full statement accompanying the photo read.

View the portrait below:



@ 2016 TPM Media LLC. All Rights Reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## This mermaid is holding her own convention for all UK merpeople

metro.co.uk

Hattie Gladwell for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 25 Jan 2017 4:12 pm



(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

**As you may have heard, mermaids are in, and unicorns are somewhat out.**

But we're not talking makeup looks, hair, nails or even cupcakes – oh no, we're talking real-life. Real people.

Ever since she can remember, 26-year-old Jessica Pennington, from Brentwood, Essex, has loved mermaids.

As a child, she'd sit and idolise Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*, just wishing she too had a

beautiful tail that she could flip around in the ocean.

But a couple of years ago, Jessica's dreams of becoming a mermaid started coming true – after a friend sent her a link to a website that offered courses in how to be a mermaid.

Studying at a university in London at the time, she was unable to afford the course there and then.



(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

But, as soon as she got a full-time job and received her first pay packet, Jessica checked the website again. She found out that through the course, she would be offered holiday opportunities where she would travel to Gozo, Malta and learn to free dive as well as learn to be a mermaid.

Of course, she booked it there and then.

Jessica told Metro.co.uk: 'When I was on the course I learned that there are actually a lot more people like me than I thought, people who dream of becoming a beautiful mythical being and swimming at ease under the water.'

(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

On return from the course, Jessica purchased her own mermaid tail – but soon ran into trouble when she found people weren't as understanding in the UK as they had been on the mermaid course.

Jessica said: 'I had trouble finding a pool that would let me wear my mermaid tail or even my monofin in the pool.'

(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

'I offered to hire a lane so that my swimming wouldn't interfere with any other person swimming.'



(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

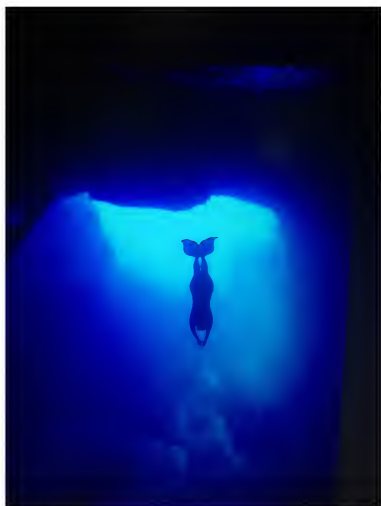
'The fins are made of either plastic or rubber, and don't cause damage to the pool and wouldn't hurt anyone if you did accidentally strike them with your tail, but still, my local pools wouldn't allow them.'

Desperate to find more merpeople and to feel more accepted, Jessica looked into meet-ups and groups where mermaids and merman could chat and swim together – but unfortunately, everything she found was based in the USA.

Down on her luck but determined not to give up, Jessica's setbacks inspired her to create her own mermaid event.

She said: 'I began researching through various social media groups and asking if people would be interested and what they would expect to see at an event like this.

'To my surprise, I found that there is a very large mer-community out there, of men, women, old and young alike, and they all had tails and took every possible opportunity to slip on their tails and be a mermaid or merman.



(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

'And then thinking about it further, I discovered that there are a lot of people who are making businesses out of and are working professionally within this world of mythology and magic and that there isn't an easy way for them to reach their target audiences or for their target audiences to know about them.'

Throughout her research, Jessica found that there were lots of tiny mer-communities dotted about, but that the communities weren't aware of each other.

Now, Jessica is determined to ensure that communities know they are not alone – and she hopes to bring them all together through her own event – while also educating other merpeople on all the products available to them.

She said: 'I wanted to raise awareness of this community and help professionals promote their services directly to their target audience, help them to build contacts and increase their client base, help little girls who have dreamed of being a mermaid know that it is actually possible.'

(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

Jessica's event, Merfolk UK, will take place on 31 March 2017 at the Dulwich College Sports Club. It will run from 12-5pm.

Jessica has hired a swimming pool and a hall for the event so that all of her mer-friends will have a chance to shake their fins.

According to Jessica, the first half of her event will be mainly swimming, while the other half will be spent browsing tables and stalls of companies that she has asked to attend.





(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

So far, Jessica has invited freediving companies, mermaid performers, mermaid course companies, mermaid arts and craft stalls and mermaid jewellery stalls so that all of her attendees can get an authentic taste of what could be to come when living a mermaid lifestyle.

Jessica is also hoping to get a marine related charity to attend to promote awareness of how the merpeople can help the UK's marine life.

While the planning of the event hasn't been easy, Jessica is really looking forward to it.



(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

(Picture: Aqua Studios UK)

She said: 'It's been really tough doing this alongside a full-time job, luckily I've had the support of some friends helping me out, but I

really want this event to be successful, it's something I feel so passionate about, and I really hope the event is successful and becomes a regular thing.

'At the moment we're almost at 50% capacity, which is the minimum I was aiming for and so thankfully now all the costs are covered, so I shouldn't be too out of pocket. If there is money left over at the end of the event, then it will definitely go into promoting and creating an even bigger event next year.'

If you would like to buy tickets for Jessica's events and get a taste of the mermaid life, you can do so here

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

[Back to top](#)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Mexican sewage spill that closed California beaches is investigated

21:10 EST, 3 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

**Massive Mexican sewage spill shuts down Californian beaches as a 143MILLION-gallon 'tsunami' of raw waste leaks across border**

**U.S. officials believe a sewage spill from Mexico's Tijuana River was deliberate**

- **It caused 143 million gallons of raw sewage to pollute Californian coastline**
- **Sewage ran for 18 days and only stopped last week on February 23**
- **Spill is believed to have occurred during repairs to Tijuana's sewage system**
- **Mexican authorities believe it was an accident caused by heavy rain**

By Emily Crane For Dailymail.com and Reuters

A massive sewage spill from Mexico's Tijuana River that polluted miles of coastland and shut down beaches in Southern California is under investigation by federal authorities.

U.S. officials have said the spill that caused about 143 million gallons of sewage to leak across the border was deliberate, while Mexican authorities believe it was an accident caused by heavy rain.

The pollution closed beaches and kept surfers and swimmers out of the ocean, drawing outrage from residents of the cross-border region who say they weren't told of the leak until weeks later.



U.S. officials have said the spill that caused about 143 million gallons of sewage to leak across the border and contaminate Californian beaches was deliberate

The tidal wave of raw sewage ran for 18 days and only stopped last week on February 23. The public didn't learn about it until the next day.

The spill is believed to have occurred during repairs to Tijuana's sewage system.

U.S. officials, including Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina, believe the spill was deliberate to

cut corners during repair work on a sewer pipeline in Mexico.

Despite high tensions between Mexico and the U.S. after Donald Trump promised to build a border wall, authorities do not believe the spill was politically motivated.

'It was intentional,' Dedina told Reuters. 'The big picture is we need to work to support Mexico's effort to improve the sewage infrastructure system in Tijuana so this doesn't happen again.'

The Tijuana River (pictured) flows across the border near San Ysidro, California

At a raucous public hearing on Thursday night in Imperial Beach, angry residents said they were fed up with continued problems with sewage from Mexico that fouls beaches and endangers their health.

A spokeswoman at the Tijuana State Public Service Commission said the spill was an accident that resulted from heavy rains collapsing a sewage interceptor in the city. They said they notified the International Boundary and Water Commission, which is a joint U.S.-Mexico agency.

The commission, which is leading the investigation, was notified on February 23 but U.S. officials believe the spill started at least two weeks earlier and dumped roughly 143 million gallons of sewage into the Pacific Ocean.

Contact with raw sewage can cause serious infections and illnesses such as diarrhea.

The sewage spill polluted 20 miles of coastland from the areas of Rosarito in Mexico to Coronado in California.

The pollution closed beaches and kept surfers and swimmers out of the ocean, drawing outrage from residents of the cross-border region

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



**Michigan driver charged in multiple crashes: 'The devil entered me'**

Christopher Haxel, Lansing State Journal

freep.com

# Detroit Free Press

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

© 2017 www.freep.com. All rights reserved.



636160940484865520-Crash2.jpg

The driver of a pickup hit and damaged several vehicles near Lake Lansing and Coolidge roads in East Lansing on Nov. 30, 2016. (Photo: Courtesy of Crystal Hensley)

EAST LANSING — An Eaton Rapids man who crashed into several vehicles then told another motorist the devil made him do it has pleaded not guilty to reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident that results in an injury.

Kyle Craig damaged about a half dozen vehicles near the intersection of Coolidge and Lake Lansing roads in November, driving erratically across the US-127 exit ramp and through the Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe parking lot, officials said.

Craig, 26, was arraigned last month on the two misdemeanor charges. He is representing himself and faces up to a year in jail if convicted.

"God saved me, and it's really hard to explain," he told the State Journal. "I hit seven vehicles, and I was able to walk right away from that. I don't think I was even wearing a seat belt."

Craig said he didn't get much sleep the night before the crashes because he was reading the Bible, and was "sucked right in" while he was driving.

"It's almost as if the devil entered me, and God saved me and prevented him from entering me and killing me," he said.

East Lansing police took Craig into custody after the incident but referred him to Sparrow Hospital for a mental health assessment, said Lt. Steve Gonzelez, a department spokesman.

"It's almost as if the devil entered me, and God saved me and prevented him from entering me and killing me."

Kyle Craig

Craig said he was sent to Stonecrest Center, a behavioral health center in Detroit, but released after about a week.

"I was just so thankful that the cops did their job, and they were able to help me through it," he said.

A pretrial conference is scheduled for Jan. 19.

Contact Christopher Haxel at 517-377-1261 or [chaxel@lsj.com](mailto:chaxel@lsj.com). Follow him on Twitter @ChrisHaxel.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Milano Vice? Palm trees near Milan's cathedral spark debate

yahoo.com



COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press February 17, 2017



Palm trees are planted in flowerbed in front of Milan's gothic-era Duomo Cathedral, Italy, Friday, Feb. 17, 2017. The appearance of a palm-filled oasis opposite the Duomo has spawned a vibrant public debate ranging from the ironic to the xenophobic. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

MILAN (AP) — The appearance of an oasis of palm trees opposite Milan's gothic-era Duomo Cathedral has spawned a vibrant public debate.

Twitter is awash with palm-inspired memes, including pink palms in front of an aquamarine-colored Duomo subtitled, Milano Vice, referring to the 1980s television series. A well-known landscape architect wrote a page-one criticism in

the daily La Repubblica dismissing the project as "neo-gothic folly" that veers "to the limits of kitsch."

The head of the anti-migrant Northern League was criticized after writing on Twitter that the scene was only missing "sand, camels and illegal migrants who will feel at home," while one of his colleagues suggested that to accompany the desert scene, the cathedral's famed spires would next be covered with minarets.

The city-organized project that provided fresh landscaping this week to two flowerbeds at the far end of Piazza del Duomo is part of a public-private initiative to periodically update the city's green spaces. This one is sponsored by Starbucks, which will soon be opening its first Italian store in Milan.

Architect Marco Bay, who won an open competition to landscape the spaces, says he wasn't completely surprised by the discussion "because it is difficult in Milan to see something new."

He dismissed criticism that palm trees don't belong to the northern Italian city, noting that there are hundreds in the city already and pointing out that palm trees were present in the same piazza for a period in the 1800s. The variety he planted, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, is well-suited to Milan's continental climate, resisting temperatures as low as 15 degrees Celsius below zero (5 degrees Fahrenheit).

"The idea was born by looking at the space," Bay told The Associated Press, saying the trees recalled both the columns of the porticoes skirting the piazza and the spires of the Duomo. "I wanted plants that create architecture, but also scenery."

Not everyone is a critic. The owner of a bar opposite the palms says sales are up more than 25 percent as people flock to see what the fuss is all about.

Milan "correctly wanted to do something aggressive" to liven up what are otherwise innocuous flowerbeds, said bar owner Mario Governa.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Mystery over minuscule snail shell invasion

stuff.co.nz



PAULA HULBURT/FAIRFAX NZ David Olliver wants to know where the tiny shells on his front path are coming from.

A Marlborough man is looking for help to solve a mystery of minuscule proportions.

Every time it rains thousands of tiny snail-like shells appear on the path outside David and Pat Olliver's house.

Invisible to the naked eye, the pin-sized hulls lay seemingly discarded, only to be crunched underfoot.

The sudden appearance has left the Blenheim pensioner puzzled.

"I've never struck anything like it in my life.

"It really makes you wonder where they came from and you'd think if there were little snails about then there would be big snails too but I hardly ever see any, or any trails.

"It's past April Fool's Day so people will know I'm not joking. I really want to know what they are and where they come from."



SCOTT HAMMOND/FAIRFAX NZ The tiny shells always seem to appear after a decent rain.

David says the footpath outside their Springland's home is awash with the empty shells.

While he says he is unaware if his neighbours have seen the same phenomenon, the mysterious occurrence only ever happens at the front of the property.

"To start with we thought they were bits of gravel or similar. If there's a decent amount of rain it's crunch, crunch, crunch as far as the front door.

"I only realised they were shells when I had a look under a magnifying glass and as far as I can see, there's nothing in them."

The first few shells started appearing about two years ago and gradually increased in number. David says there are now so many of them they often seem to "clump together".

"We didn't pay much attention at first and it really all started with the noise so I picked up a few and looked at them carefully.

"They are perfectly formed shells; it's just really strange and I'd love to know about them.



"It's quite a mystery."

## - The Marlborough Express

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Advertise here now!

**Call Our voicemail**

+1 (530) 918 4070 or Skype: MysteriousUniv

**Categories**

Ancient Mysteries	Plus+ Articles
Bizarre	Plus+ Podcasts
Conspiracy	Podcasts
Cryptozoology	Psychedelics
Entertainment	Science & Technology
Ghosts & Hauntings	Space & Astronomy
Modern Mysteries	Spirituality
MU News	UFO Phenomenon
Natural World	Video
News	

## Monkey of the Dead

1 Comment

February 17, 2016

Nick Redfern

Like a lot of people in the paranormal field I write on a number of subjects, but chiefly Ufology and Cryptozoology. And, also like most people in the field, I have my favorite, specific cases. One of them concerns a bizarre creature that haunts a certain bridge in central England. The name of the monster is the Man-Monkey. Such is the interest I have in the story, I wrote [an entire book](#) on the subject. I've also commented on the affair right here, at Mysterious Universe, such is the large body of data and witness-testimony on the case.

The tale dates back to January 1879 when a man crossing Bridge 39 over the old Shropshire Union Canal – near the Staffordshire [village of Woodseaves](#) – had the shock of his life. Out of the surrounding and dense trees a large, monkey-like animal came charging. It jumped onto the man's horse and cart, and scared the living-you-know-what out of the man and his four-legged friend. The shining-eyed monster was no normal animal, however. It was described as being semi-physical and semi-spectral – in the sense that it had the ability to jump atop the cart, but when the man tried to hit the thing with his horsewhip, the whip went straight through it. As in literally. The beast quickly bounded away, and back into the shadows. The man raced to the local pub for a soothing pint of beer or several. Hell, maybe even the horse did!



Over the years, a wealth of theories have been offered to explain the case. An [escaped gorilla from a traveling menagerie](#) being one of them. Then, there's the "deranged hobo" theory, which is hardly worth addressing, since it's so patently ridiculous. Some kind of Tulpa/mind-monster has also been offered, given that, also in the late-1800s, dark and infernal rites and rituals were afoot at [nearby Ranton Abbey](#). And, there's yet another scenario.

There can be very little doubt that the most controversial theory offered to explain the presence of the Man-Monkey – and of similar creatures reported in the U.K. – is that it was an example of the human dead returning to our realm of existence in spectral, animal form. To be sure, it's a scenario that most seekers of unknown apes and mysterious monkeys have absolutely no time for. However, it must be noted that in centuries past, there was a widely held belief that restless spirits could travel from their ethereal plane of existence back to our world, albeit in monstrous forms – including those of large, ape-like beasts.

Was the soul of a local man who, according to police knowledge, "drowned in the cut" just weeks before the Man-Monkey was first seen, really running wild in the guise of the semi-spectral Man-Monkey? Many might disagree. Not the folk of Woodseaves, however. One who gave a great deal of thought to this theory was Charlotte Burne –



the author of [an 1883 book](#), *Shropshire Folk-Lore*, and the very first person to write about and investigate the saga of the Man-Monkey.



Burne said of the sightings in and around the area: "I believe this to have originated in the classical and medieval notion of werewolves, living men who could assume the shape of a wolf at pleasure. Sometimes also a corpse would arise from its grave in the form of a wolf, and might do incalculable damage if it were not at once beheaded and cast into the nearest stream. This is a Prussian fancy, and the English King John too is said to have gone about as a werewolf after his death. Wolves have been extinct in England long enough to have disappeared from popular tales though not so many centuries as most people suppose, but the Man-Monkey seems very like the old fable in a new guise."

[Elliott O'Donnell](#), who, in 1912, penned a classic book titled *Werewolves*, wrote: "It is an old belief that the souls of cataleptic and epileptic people, during the body's unconsciousness, adjourned temporarily to animals, and it is therefore only in keeping with such a view to suggest that on the deaths of such people their spirits take permanently the form of animals. This would account for the fact that places where cataleptics and idiots have died are often haunted by semi and by wholly animal types of phantasms."

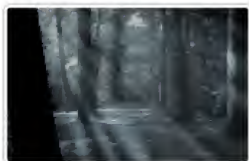


O'Donnell expanded further: "According to Paracelsus, man has two spirits – an animal spirit and a human spirit – and that in after life he appears in the shape of whichever of these two spirits he has allowed to dominate him. If, for example, he has obeyed the spirit that prompts him to be sober and temperate, then his phantasm resembles a man; but on the other hand, if he has given way to his carnal and bestial cravings, then his phantasm is earthbound, in the guise of some terrifying and repellent animal."

True or not, the words of O'Donnell offer yet further intrigue for those, like me, who pursue the mystery of the Man-Monkey.

**TAGS:** Charlotte Burne, Elliott O'Donnell, Man-Monkey, spirit

## Related Articles

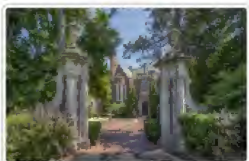


### The Creepy Saga of a Diabolical Devil

In a somewhat strange and roundabout way, the following story has a connection to both me and to a particular, mysterious beast that I have spent many hours and days pursuing: the...

[READ MORE](#)

0 Comments



### Haunted Mansion Drops in Price But Still No Takers

Just in time for your Halloween party, a famous haunted mansion near Chicago has dropped its selling price but buyers still think the deal is ghostly ghastly. The luxury home on the...

[READ MORE](#)

9 Comments



[VIEW ALL](#)

### Witches are Falling From the Sky in Ghana

Yes, the headline is correct. Multiple media sites in Ghana are reporting that not one but two women believed to be witches fell from the sky recently. Is this a new Fortean...

[READ MORE](#)

3 Comments

[1 Comment](#) [Mysterious Universe](#)[Login](#) [Recommend](#) [Share](#)[Sort by Newest](#) 

Join the discussion...

**Carlos Martinez** • a year ago

Let's not forget that werewolf-like creatures tend to visit military sites or places where battles have been fought. Could the beast be a tulpa invoked by the bestiality displayed in battle by men of war. A reflection of their nature?

[^](#) [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) [Subscribe](#) [Add Disqus to your site](#) [Add Disqus Add](#) [Privacy](#)

## About Mysterious Universe

Mysterious Universe brings you the latest news and podcasts covering the strange, extraordinary, weird, wonderful and everything in between.

The Mysterious Universe podcast debuted in 2006 and has since grown to a huge following with millions of downloads from around the world.

Get to know the MU Team over on our [About page](#) and be sure to checkout out our [Podcasts](#) while you're here.

## Site Info

[Join MU PLUS+](#)[About](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Terms & Conditions](#)[Advertisers](#)[MU App Version Notes](#)

## Buy the Podcast Back Catalogue

**The Mega Value Pack****\$99.00**[PURCHASE](#)

Get the entire collection now for this great price.

Copyright © Mysterious Universe. Mysterious Universe is a property of 8th Kind Pty Ltd

[Login](#) | [Contact Us](#)



News... but not as you know it

109.9m shares

[News](#) [Sport](#) [Trending](#)

- [Home](#)
  - [Trending](#)
- [News](#)
  - [UK](#)
  - [World](#)
  - [Weird](#)
  - [Tech](#)
- [Sport](#)
  - [Football](#)
  - [Rumour Mill](#)
  - [PL Table](#)
  - [Oddballs](#)
  - [Club Metro](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
  - [Showbiz](#)
  - [TV](#)
  - [Film](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [Gaming](#)
  - [Celebrity Big Brother](#)
  - [Soaps](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
  - [Sex](#)
  - [Fashion](#)
  - [Food](#)
  - [Travel](#)
- [Video](#)
- [More](#)
  - [Lifestyle](#)
  - [Blogs](#)
  - [Students](#)
  - [Submit stuff](#)
  - [Competitions](#)
  - [Jobs](#)
  - [Property](#)
- [Search Metro](#)
- [Follow us](#)

## Skeleton of eight foot 'serpent' washes up in Cornwall



[Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk](#) Thursday 23 Feb 2017 11:28 am



It is eight foot long (Picture: Chris Crane/SWNS)

**A 'serpent' carcass has stunned walkers who found it washed up on a beach.**

The eight foot skeleton has mostly rotted away, but the shape of its body, which bulges out towards the back, is still visible.



[Witches are putting a spell on Donald Trump at midnight](#)

People think it could be the legendary Cornish monster known as Morgawr, said to live off the coast of Falmouth.

Drawings of the serpent, whose name means sea giant, indicate it could have a similar shape with its body tapering down to a narrow neck, rather than the more stocky bodies of dolphins and whales.

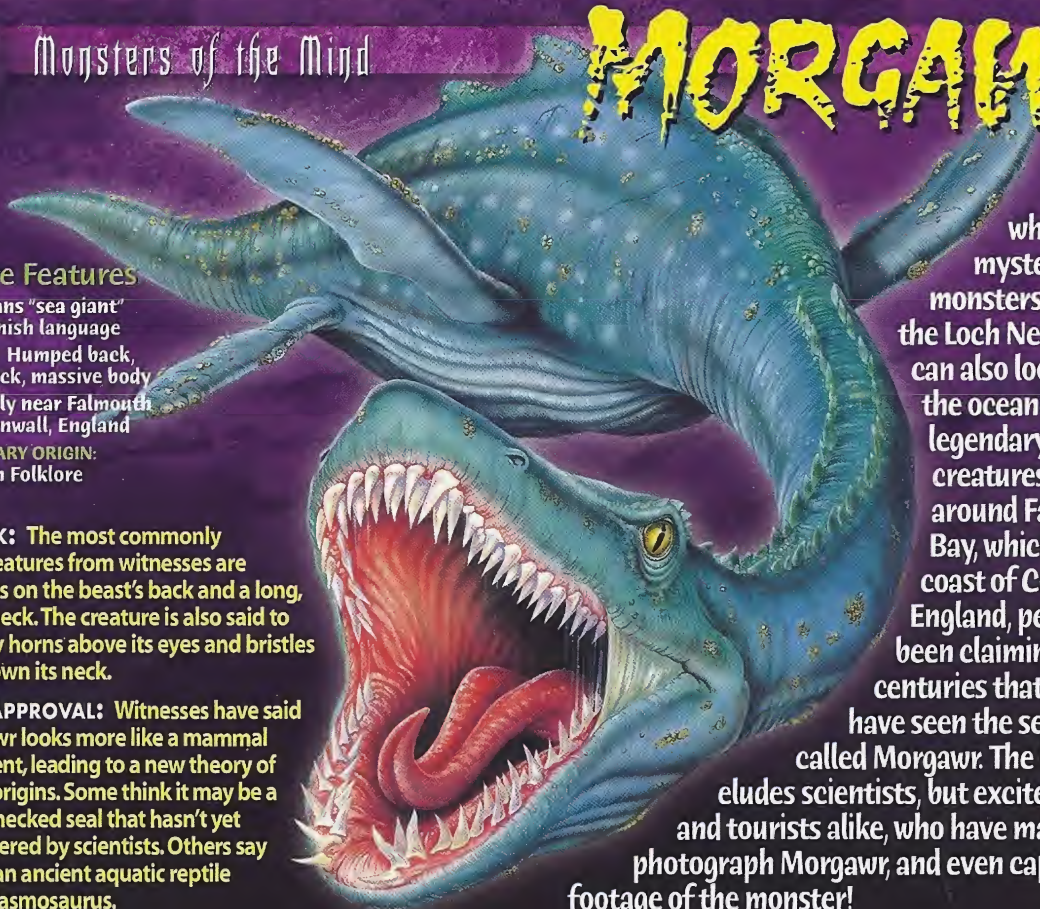
Chris Crane, 61, was walking with wife Amanda, 59, when they saw a large black figure in the distance on Charlestown beach, close to St Austell.



CARD  
77

Monsters of the Mind

# MORGAWR



**Creature Features**

**NAME:** Means "sea giant" in the Cornish language

**BODY PARTS:** Humped back, serpentine neck, massive body

**WHERE?** Usually near Falmouth Bay off Cornwall, England

**LEGENDARY ORIGIN:** British Folklore

**HUMPBACK:** The most commonly described features from witnesses are three humps on the beast's back and a long, snake-like neck. The creature is also said to have stubby horns above its eyes and bristles or spikes down its neck.

**SEAL OF APPROVAL:** Witnesses have said that Morgawr looks more like a mammal than a serpent, leading to a new theory of the beast's origins. Some think it may be a giant, long-necked seal that hasn't yet been discovered by scientists. Others say it might be an ancient aquatic reptile known as elasmosaurus.

People who believe in mysterious lake monsters, such as the Loch Ness Monster, can also look toward the ocean for some legendary deep-sea creatures. In and around Falmouth Bay, which is off the coast of Cornwall, England, people have been claiming for centuries that they have seen the sea monster called Morgawr. The beast eludes scientists, but excites locals and tourists alike, who have managed to photograph Morgawr, and even capture video footage of the monster!

Morgawr, is it you? (Picture: wierdnwildcreatures.wikia.com)

'At first I thought it might be a dolphin or a seal, but as I got closer I could see it was something a bit bigger and an odd shape,' Chris said.

Mr Crane, who runs a Bed and Breakfast, took pictures on Monday and asked if anyone knew what animal it could be.



[What the hell is that massive blob that's washed up in the Philippines?](#)

People immediately suggested it could be the remains of mythical Morgawr.

'It had been there for some time because it was a bit smelly,' Chris said. 'We had a look as close as we could.

'I posted some pictures on social media and some suggested it was a pilot whale but its head looked too unusual to me.







Chris said it didn't look like a pilot whale (Picture: Chris Crane/SWNS)

**Chris Crane**

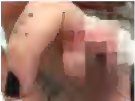
@Number1BandB

Anyone know what creature this is washed up on the beach in [#Charlestown](#) [#cornwall](#) obviously been there for a few days as beginning to smell

7:53 AM - 20 Feb 2017 · Saint Austell, England

2

'Some suggested it could be a Cornish sea monster and others have said it could be someone's mother-in-law but I'll take that with a pinch of salt.'



[Body piercer cuts off finger because 'she wanted to'](#)

'I thought it was all very odd.'

The legend of Morgawr came to wide attention in 1975, when fishermen claimed to have seen it and someone else sent photos to a local paper.

There have been sporadic sightings in the decades afterwards, with some referring to the stretch of coast between Rosemullion Head and Toll Point as 'Morgawr's Mile', imagining it is its hunting ground.

Chris has since contacted the National Sea Watch Foundation about the discovery – who have yet to reply about what it could be.

More

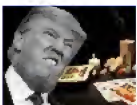
[Cornwall](#)



[What the hell is that massive blob that's washed up in the Philippines?](#)



[Body piercer cuts off finger because 'she wanted to'](#)



[Witches are putting a spell on Donald Trump at midnight](#)



[Tesco stops men purchasing £200 worth of food for the homeless](#)





### [Flight from Edinburgh crash lands off runway during Storm Doris](#)



### [Parcelforce driver caught committing sex act on letterbox](#)

• MORE:

### [Teenager went missing after discovering she is pregnant with her ex-boyfriend's baby](#)

• MORE:

### [Gang of fat squirrels terrorise children at park and steal their food](#)

• MORE:

### [Why a mini break to Cornwall is a perfect his and hers winter weekend escape](#)

[Comments](#)

Must read



1.

### [Man sends girlfriend bouquet of 'flowers' made of £1,100 in bank notes](#)

Well, at least they won't wilt and die within a week.



2.

### [What the hell is that massive blob that's washed up in the Philippines?](#)

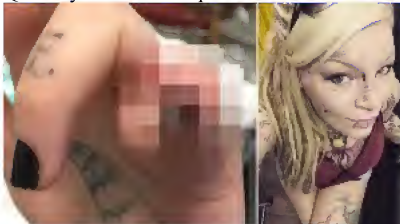
It's officially called a globster, but nobody quite knows what it is.



3.

### [Craptacular, haterade and fitspiration among 300 words added to dictionary](#)

Q: Can you define 'drop bear'?



4.

### [Body piercer cuts off finger because 'she wanted to'](#)

WARNING: Graphic content





5.

### Witches are putting a spell on Donald Trump at midnight

You will need this picture of Donald Trump, a baby carrot and some sulphur.

6.



7.

### Social anxiety can ruin friendships - be patient with the one who always cancels

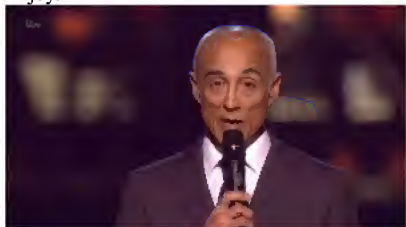
I don't cancel because I want to.



8.

### Pictures of dogs being blown in the wind by Storm Doris

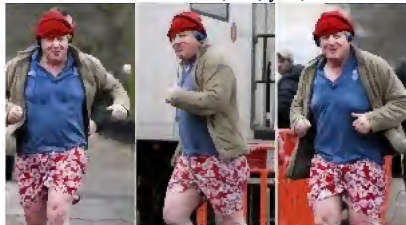
Enjoy.



9.

### Brits 2017: Wham! star Andrew Ridgeley pays incredibly emotional tribute to George Michael

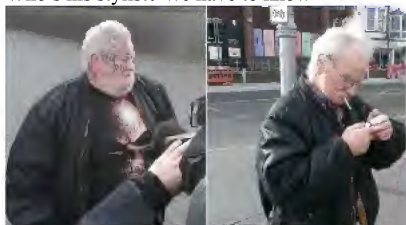
'I loved him and in return, we, you, have been loved'.



10.

### Boris Johnson's gym gear is the most beautiful thing you will ever see

Who's his stylist? We have to know



11.

### [Man hammered nail into dog's skull before burying it alive](#)

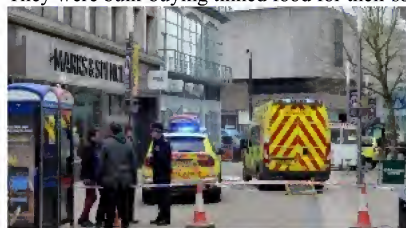
A vet called it the worst case of animal cruelty he had seen.



12.

### [Tesco stops men purchasing £200 worth of food for the homeless](#)

They were bulk-buying tinned food for their soup kitchen.



13.

### [Woman killed as Storm Doris is officially upgraded to a weather bomb](#)

Storm Doris has hit with gusts of up to 100mph.



14.

### [Claudio Ranieri sacked as manager of Leicester City](#)

The Foxes sit just one place above the relegation zone.

☐ ☐ ☐☐ ☐

What's trending now

[More trending stories »](#)



1.

### [Flights to New York for just £69 - but you've got to book by 11pm tonight](#)



2.

[Tesco stops men purchasing £200 worth of food for the homeless](#)



3.

[Cannibal caught by his mother 'eating seven-year-old boy'](#)



4.

[Tiger Temple that closed after dead cubs were found in freezer to reopen with another name](#)



5.



### [First details of what new Nokia 3310 will look like](#)

[More trending stories »](#)

News feed



[222 shares](#)

### [Girl fighting for life after school hall ceiling collapses on her](#)

There were 40 pupils in the hall when it fell.

222 shares

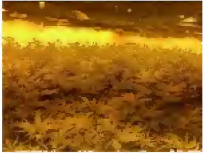


[218 shares](#)

### [Woman stops brutal gang attack by using her car as a weapon](#)

'I drove at them and sounded my horn continuously to try to disperse them - most of them ran off.'

218 shares



[215 shares](#)

### [Police find cannabis field as far as the eye can see in nuclear bunker](#)

Wiltshire Police estimated the haul to be worth £1,000,000.

215 shares

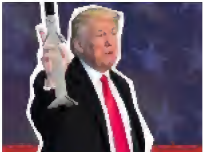


[104 shares](#)

### [What is Maha Shivaratri and why is it celebrated?](#)

Why do Hindus celebrate Lord Shiva once a year?

104 shares



[99 shares](#)

### [Donald Trump wants more nuclear weapons so US is 'top of the pack'](#)

He says America has fallen behind other countries.

99 shares

GIN



[Metro.co.uk has a gin club, and we would love you to join us](#)

Relationships



[If he asks your dad before he asks you, you shouldn't be marrying him](#)



[We used haikus to prove most men don't care what you say on Tinder as long as you're cute](#)



[7 reasons why a trip to Buenos Aires is worth it for the food alone](#)

[Why Argentine steak is the best in the world](#)



YOU ARE HERE: [Weird](#) › [Cornwall](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [More](#)
  - [Blogs](#)
  - [Jobs](#)
- [Search Metro](#)

[Trending](#)

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited Powered by [WordPress.com](#) [VIP](#) [Your ad choices](#)  
[Contributors](#)[Terms and Conditions](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Site map](#)

Get us in your feed

[Like us on Facebook](#) [Follow us on Twitter](#)

## Woman born without arms breaks record for most candles lit with feet

upi.com



Adriana Irene Macias Hernandez, a Mexican woman born without arms, broke the Guinness World Record for "Most birthday candles lit with the feet in one minute" by lighting a total of 11 candles. Screen capture/Guinness World Records/YouTube

Feb. 21 (UPI) -- A Mexican woman born without arms broke a world record for lighting candles with her feet on an Italian game show.

Adriana Irene Macias Hernandez used her feet to light 11 candles and claim the

Guinness World Record for "Most birthday candles lit with the feet in one minute" in front of the audience of Italy's *Lo Show dei Record*.

The previous record of seven was set by American Ashrita Furman, who holds multiple world records.

Hernandez became proficient at completing tasks with her feet after she was born without arms.

In addition to breaking the record, Hernandez graduated with a law degree, has written multiple books and travels around the world to deliver lectures about her disability.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## This could be Britain's most expensive flower pot

By Jane Lavender 16:07, 8 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**It was discovered at Blenheim Palace has been found after having tulips grown in it for on the grounds of Blenheim Palace where it had been used for the last 100 years as a flower pot**



A marble trough used for growing tulips for 100 years has been identified as a Roman sarcophagus worth more than £300,000.

It was discovered at Blenheim Palace has been found after having tulips grown in it for on the grounds of Blenheim Palace where it had been used for the last 100 years as a flower pot.

An ancient Roman sarcophagus worth up to £300,000 has been discovered on the grounds of Blenheim Palace where it had been used for the last 100 years as a flower pot.

The historic marble coffin has been exposed to the elements for the last century and used as an

oversized planter to grow tulips in in the rock garden of Sir Winston Churchill 's birthplace in Oxfordshire.

And for 100 years before that the 1,800 year old sarcophagus was used as a makeshift water feature by the 5th Duke of Marlborough who obtained it in the 19th century.

Palace officials were prompted to take a closer look at the 6ft 6ins long object after an antiques expert spotted its ornate carvings while making an unrelated visit.

The palace had conservators remove the front marble section, which is the original part, and carry out an extensive investigation.

They identified the basin as a white marble sarcophagus depicting Dionysian revelry dating back to 300AD.

Its splendid bas-relief carvings depict a drunken Dionysus, the god of wine, leaning on an equally inebriated woodland god known as 'satyr'.

The pair are flanked by party revelers including Hercules and Ariadne as well as two large lion heads. The marble section weighs nearly 900lbs.

The sarcophagus has been placed on public display in an underground room in Blenheim Palace.

In 2013 auctioneer Guy Schwinge sold a similar sarcophagus for £100,000 after finding it being used as a plant trough, said this example could be worth three times that.

Mr Schwinge, of Duke's Auctioneers of Dorchester, Dorset, said: "The quality of this sarcophagus panel suggests it was made in Rome for a high status member of the patrician elite.

"The overall form and Dionysian carving suggest a date late in the late 2nd century and the lion's masks are a clear expression of Roman Imperial power.

"A comparable panel from the collection of John Pierpont Morgan, datable to around 180 AD, came up for auction in New York a few years ago.

"At auction a panel of this sophistication could easily realise £300,000 or more with the Blenheim Palace provenance."

Kate Ballenger, house manager at the palace, said: "We were alerted to the sarcophagus' importance by an antiques expert who was visiting the estate.

"We always thought it was a beautiful sculpture but we were not aware of the fact it was a Roman sarcophagus dating back to 300AD.

"First an elaborate water feature and then a planter for flowers, it has now been conserved and relocated inside the palace.

"We are delighted to have it back and the restoration work is very impressive.

"Now it is in a consistent indoor climate away from the natural elements we are hoping it will remain in good condition and survive for many more centuries to come."

Nicholas Banfield, of Cliveden Conservation of Taplow, Berks who has overseen the restoration, said: "The piece is actually in remarkable condition considering it has withstood seemingly aggressive environments, particularly that of a fountain receptacle.

"Following an initial in-situ inspection we were able to unbolt it from the lead cistern to which it was attached and take it back to our workshops for full cleaning, repair and stabilisation."

The marble coffin was originally obtained by the 5th Duke of Marlborough, who was famous for his extravagant collection of antiquities, around 200 years ago.

The nobleman's illustrious name did not, however, save him from his mounting debts and his estates were seized and his collections sold.

This particular piece was one of a few he maintained ownership of after retiring to Blenheim Palace.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Cannibal caught by his mother 'eating seven-year-old boy'

metro.co.uk

Ashitha Nagesh for Metro.co.uk Thursday 23 Feb 2017 2:38 pm



Nazim Miyan

Nazim Miyan, who has been charged with murder and abduction (Picture: Mydrim Jones)

A mother walked in on her son eating a seven-year-old boy he had dragged in off the street and beheaded.

Nazim Miyan, who is in his mid-20s, is accused of luring the young victim Mohammad Monis indoors while he was playing outside with his friends.

Miyan then killed the boy and cut his limbs and neck into several pieces, before ripping his stomach out and tearing off his flesh.

Police officers who later attended the disturbing scene said they found 'the body... lying on the floor with the decapitated head beside it'.

'The skin on the abdomen was missing, and internal body parts and bloodstains were scattered across the room,' one officer told the Hindustan Times.



Police found a gruesome scene (Picture: Mydrim Jones)

Police found a gruesome scene (Picture: Mydrim Jones)

Miyan was found sitting near the body, he added, and gave himself up to police without any resistance.

But after his arrest, hundreds of people gathered outside the police station in Amariya, in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

As they tried to attack Miyan, they demanded that he be killed for his alleged crime.

When Miyan was later questioned by investigators, his responses were apparently unintelligible.

He has now been charged with murder and abduction.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Pat Robertson: There's a "Demonic" Component to Multiple Sclerosis and Jesus Is Part of the Cure

patheos.com

### Pat Robertson: There's a "Demonic" Component to Multiple Sclerosis and Jesus Is Part of the Cure

by Hemant Mehta

Experts don't know exactly what causes multiple sclerosis (MS), though genetics and environmental factors are said to play a role. MS also doesn't have a cure.

But lucky for people who suffer from it, **Pat Robertson** knows far more than any of those experts.

On yesterday's episode of *The 700 Club*, he explained that MS had a "spiritual component" to it and the cause could be "demonic" in nature. He later added that rebuking those demons in the name of Jesus was part of the cure.



RobertsonMSJesus

"I know this sounds strange but I **do believe there is a spiritual component in MS, it's like a demonic — it's one of those things that you literally have to cast out,**" he said. **"I have seen people with MS get up out of a wheelchair and push the wheelchair out of the room where we were. I've seen it. I've been involved in it."**

While he did tell the viewer to "check with an endocrinologist to see if there's something, some chemical or something that could be done that would build up that immune system that you've got or if it's something that you're eating that's causing a problem," **Robertson assured her that "you need in the name of Jesus to rebuke that thing and to say to your body, 'You will be whole!'"**

Good luck finding video and medical records of those MS sufferers getting out of their wheelchairs — and staying out of them.

Satan isn't the cause and Jesus isn't the cure.

It's not that simple. And that's why Robertson's viewer, who has MS and wanted to know why Robertson's faith-healing segments hadn't cured her yet, deserves a better answer than the lie she got instead.

I'm mostly surprised Robertson didn't tell her the solution involved sending him more money.

(via Right Wing Watch)

## Related posts from Friendly Atheist:

Mike Pence Refusing To Eat With Women Other Than His Wife Isn't An Endearing Love Story

**Hemant Mehta** is the editor of Friendly Atheist, appears on the Atheist Voice channel on YouTube, and co-hosts the uniquely-named Friendly Atheist Podcast. You can read much more about him [here](#).

Copyright 2008-2017, Patheos. All rights reserved.      [Terms of Service](#) | [Patheos Privacy Policy](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Murder Among the Whyos, Part 2.

[murderbygaslight.com](http://murderbygaslight.com)

A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, March 4, 2017

### Murder Among the Whyos, Part 2.



DAN LYONS.

Daniel M. Lyons (burglar), Dan Driscoll and Dan Lyons were the successful leaders of New York City's Whyo gang in the early 1880s. After Driscoll's arrest for murder in 1886, Dan Lyons became the sole leader, but his reign did not last long. Confusion surrounds the cause of Lyons' downfall in 1887—most modern accounts say he was executed for murdering a popular amateur athlete, but in fact, he was shot to death by an angry saloonkeeper. Either way, murder led to the demise of the Whyos.

**Date:** July 5, 1887

**Location:** New York, New York

**Victim:** Joseph Francis Quinn

**Cause of Death:** Gunshot

**Accused:** Daniel M Lyons

**Date:** August 18, 1887



**Location:** New York, New York

**Victim:** Daniel Lyons

**Cause of Death:** Gunshot

**Accused:** Daniel Murphy

### Synopsis:

The evening of July 5, 1887, Joseph Quinn was sitting on the front steps of his home at 2nd Avenue and 38th Street in New York City, when a man named Dan Lyons walked up and, without provocation, shot Quinn in the head. The men had been fighting over a woman named Kitty McGown, said Quinn's friends when the police arrived. Lyons had quickly fled the scene.



JOSEPH FRANCIS QUINN.

Joseph Quinn was a champion amateur catch-as-catch-can wrestler and a well-known all-around athlete who belonged to the New York Athletic Club and the Pastime Club. His day job was margin clerk of the New York Coffee Exchange. The murder caused quite a stir in the sporting community and on wall street as well. Thousands of people attended his funeral.

The city police were under pressure to make an arrest, but Dan Lyons was a burglar, adept at eluding capture. The police first thought he had gone to Long Island, but they soon had reports that Lyons had been seen in several dives in Philadelphia. Detectives Malarkey and Duncan were dispatched to that city, but on arrival, they learned that Lyons had gone to Pittsburg. As the detectives traveled west, so did Lyons and he was next seen in Chicago. Hoping to fool the police, Lyons doubled back to Pittsburg, and there was arrested for burglary. He may have deliberately

let himself be caught to hide from his pursuers. When the detectives found him in the Pittsburg jail, Lyons agreed to return with them without formal extradition.

When he returned to New York, Lyons told his version of the murder. The fight, he said, was not over a woman; the animosity between the men, which began with a petty disagreement, had been building for a year. The men had fought the day before the murder and Quinn had beaten Lyons badly. He did not want to be beaten again, so he made sure he was armed when he passed Quinn's house. Quinn had not been sitting on his steps the day of the shooting, but had approached him on the street and threatened him with a "Chinese fan dagger." Lyons told police, "I killed Quinn because if I hadn't done so, he would have killed me."

**"DAN" LYONS LAID LOW.**

Not the Slayer of Quinn, but Saloon Keeper Murphy's Assailant.

**SEEKING FOR REVENGE.**

One of the Whyos Is Fatally Wounded in a Saloon.

A gentle "Whyo" was laid low. Not in the clover, nor in the snow, but upon the sawdust floor of a Sixth ward bar-room.

His name, "Dan" Lyons; his erstwhile most intimate, "Dan" Driscoll, who shot "Beetle" Garrity, and his highest accomplishment, stealing shoes off the feet of sleeping companions without disturbing their slumbers.

When "Whyos" were shot in the night life of the

When the story broke that Joseph Quinn was killed by Dan Lyons, some speculated that the killer had to be Dan Lyons, the infamous leader of the Whyos, New York's most dangerous criminal gang. Speculation ceased about a month later when Dan Lyons of the Whyos was murdered in a Five Points saloon while Dan Lyons, killer of Quinn, was safely behind bars in the Tombs prison.

The Whyos' Dan Lyons, who was described as having a lantern jaw and a head shaped like a bullet, had served time in Sing Sing Prison and on August 18, 1887, was out on bail after assaulting a policeman. Early that morning he entered Daniel Murphy's saloon on Worth Street, in the Five Points, with some friends. Lyons was already drunk and quickly became rowdy. When he threatened to kill everyone there, the bartender threw him out.

That afternoon Lyons went back to Murphy's, still extremely drunk, and demanded to be served. Reportedly, some kittens were running about on Murphy's floor; Lyons picked them up and bit off the ends of their tails. The

bartender, Walter Butler, refused to serve him and told him to leave. Lyons got angry then and began throwing bottles of soda water at Butler. When the owner, Daniel Murphy, came in and saw what was happening he told Lyons to get out. Lyons threw a bottle of mineral water at Murphy, cutting a deep gash under his right eye.

Murphy went behind the bar, grabbed his revolver from the shelf and pointed it at Lyons. "Come now, you've got to go out." Murphy said.

Lyons reached for his revolver, but Murphy fired first, hitting him in the side of the head. Murphy, bleeding profusely, then ran from the saloon, straight to the Elizabeth Street Police Station and turned himself in. He feared the police less than he feared the Whyos. Dan Lyons died at the Chambers Street Hospital some time after midnight. His last words were, "I'm sorry, you can bet. I'd just like to have one more go at Murphy."

#### **Trial for the Murder of Joseph Quinn: September 19, 1887**

The trial of Daniel M. Lyons, the burglar, for the murder of Joseph Quinn lasted six days. The highlight of the trial was the testimony of the defendant who explained that Quinn harassed him every time he passed his house. He tried to avoid that corner as much as he could but sometimes he could not. On July 5, he was carrying a revolver hoping to scare Quinn if he saw him. Lyons had believed the pistol was empty and when it went off, he was as surprised as anyone.

There was no corroborating testimony to the Lyons's assertion of self-defense. Mrs. Annie Bollinger testified that Lyons had not avoided the corner, she had often seen him loitering there. The jury found Daniel Lyons guilty of first-degree murder.

#### **Coroner's Hearing for the Murder of Daniel Lyons of the Whyos: August 17, 1887**

Dan Lyons's wake drew Whyos from across New York and Brooklyn, and while they mourned their lost leader, a coroner's jury met to determine the fate of his killer. Daniel Murphy was represented by William Howe of the law firm Howe and Hummel, the city's foremost criminal attorneys. In his statement to the jury, Howe gave the Whyos a good raking, citing their violence and criminal activities, and said that the city was well rid of Danny Lyons. This was a bit disingenuous on Howe's part; Howe and Hummel were virtually on retainer with the Whyos, handling all of their major legal problems, and the previous year, Howe had defended Lyons's partner, Whyo leader Dan Driscoll in his murder trial. The jury in Murphy's case agreed with Howe, exonerating Murphy and calling the killing "entirely justifiable."

#### **Aftermath:**



The Tombs.

Daniel M. Lyons, the killer of Joseph Quinn, was sentenced to hang, and while awaiting his execution, he was sent to murderer's row in the Tombs. There he met Dan Driscoll, former leader of the Whyos and ex-partner of Lyons's namesake. The two became close friends and worked together on several failed escape attempts. Lyons's attempts to escape the gallows through legal appeals failed as well though they did manage to prolong his life until the following August. Daniel Lyons was hanged in the courtyard of the Tombs on August 21, 1888.

Most modern accounts erroneously state that Dan Lyons of the Whyos was executed for the murder of Joseph Quinn. This error first appeared in Herbert Asbury's 1927 book, *The Gangs of New York*. Asbury was a great storyteller and chronicler of nineteenth-century crime, but he was known to embellish the facts for the sake of the story. In this case, he confused the two Dans, and in his version, Dan Lyons, the Whyo leader, shot Joseph Quinn in a gun battle across Paradise Square, over the affections of Pretty Kitty McGown. Asbury is so well respected that at least three serious authors retold Asbury's version in their books with very little variation.

The Whyos never again had leadership as strong as Dan Driscoll and Dan Lyons. The police came down hard on the Whyos and their numbers dwindled as members were sent to prison. By the end of the nineteenth century, though the Whyo gang still existed, it was no longer a major factor in New York City crime.

### Sources:

Asbury, Herbert, *The Gangs of New York* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1928).  
*Defenders and Offenders* (New York: Buchner & Co, 1888).  
 "An Amateur Athlete Murdered," *Daily Register*, July 6, 1887.  
 "Dan Lyons Found Guilty," *Plain Dealer*, September 27, 1887.  
 "Dan Lyons Hanged," *Daily Critic*, August 21, 1888.  
 "Dan Lyons Homeward Bound," *New York Herald*, July 29, 1887.  
 "Dan Lyons in the Tombs," *New York Sun*, July 30, 1887.  
 "Dan' Lyons Laid Low," *New York Herald*, August 14, 1887.  
 "Dan Lyons Tells his Story," *New York Sun*, September 24, 1888.  
 "Dan Lyons Wake," *New York Herald*, August 16, 1887.  
 Destefano, Anthony M., *Gangland New York* (New York: LP, 2015).  
 "Execution of Dan Lyons for the Murder of Joseph Quinn," *Evening News*, August 21, 1888.  
 "Lyons in the Tombs," *New York Herald*, July 30, 1887.  
 "Lyons Pleads Self-Defense," *New York Herald*, September 21, 1887.  
 "Lyons Tells How He Killed Quinn," *New York Tribune*, September 24, 1887.  
 "Lyons to Be Hanged," *New York Herald*, September 24, 1887.  
 "Murphy Got First Shot," *New York Sun*, August 14, 1887.  
 "Planting a Tough," *New York Herald*, August 17, 1887.  
 "Quinn's Murderer in Court," *New York Sun*, August 4, 1887.  
 "Shot By a Saloon Keeper," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1887.  
 "The Shot Whyo is Dead," *New York Sun*, August 15, 1887.  
 "Was it a Conspiracy?," *New York Herald*, July 24, 1887.  
 "Whyos Leaderless Again," *New York Sun*, September 22, 1887.  
 "'Whyo' Lyons Dead," *New York Herald*, August 15, 1887.

Posted by Robert Wilhelm

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Murder Among the Whyos, Part 1.

[murderbygaslight.com](http://murderbygaslight.com)

A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, February 18, 2017



DAN DRISCOLL.

The Whyos, in 1886, were the strongest and most brutal criminal gang New York City had ever known. Under the joint leadership of Dan Driscoll and Dan Lyons, the Whyos grew to control criminal activity throughout the city. But Driscoll and Lyons were too violent and reckless to rule for long and their mistakes led to the demise of the gang. The Whyos' downfall began when Dan Driscoll stole Beezy Garrity from her pimp John McCarthy.

**Date:** June 26, 1886

**Location:** New York, New York

**Victim:** Bridgett "Beezy" Garrity

**Cause of Death:** Gunshot

**Accused:** Daniel Driscoll

### Synopsis:

Street gangs have always been part of life in New York City. Before the Civil War, gangs with

colorful names like, Dead Rabbits, Bowery Boys, Plug Uglies, Shirt Tails, Roach Guards, and Chichesters would battle over turf, primarily in the notorious Five Points neighborhood. At times they would unite behind the nativist Bowery Boys or the Irish Dead Rabbits and battle over national pride. Occasionally, all gangs would join together to battle a common enemy as in the Draft Riots or the Astor Place Riot.

By the 1880s, one gang, the Whyos, dominated New York and their central focus switched from fighting to crime. While still headquartered in the Five Points area, the Whyos' reach extended throughout Manhattan, as they engaged in pickpocketing, burglary, bank robbery, counterfeiting,

and prostitution. They also provided violence for hire – when gang member Piker Ryan was arrested, he was carrying a menu of Whyo services:

Punching	\$2
Both Eyes blacked	\$4
Nose and jaw broke	\$10
Jacked out	\$15
Ear chewed off	\$15
Leg or arm broke	\$19
Shot in leg	\$25
Stab	\$25
Doing the big job	\$100 and up



Bottle Alley, Mulberry Bend. Headquarters of the Whyo Gang.

The Whyos were tough and ferocious. Mike McGloin, a Whyo leader who was executed for murder, summed it up in one line: “A guy ain’t tough until he has knocked his man out.” Legend says that a man could not become a full member of the Whyos until he committed murder.

The Whyo’s power peaked in the 1880s under the joint leadership of Dan Driscoll and Dan Lyons. Both men had a weakness for strong, beautiful women, a trait which would lead to their ultimate downfall. The beginning of the end came when Dan Driscoll met 18-year-old Bridget Garrity.

Bridget Garrity, better known as Beezy, was a prostitute working for gang member John “Red” McCarthy but she had higher ambitions. Beezy aspired to be the queen of the Whyos and when Dan Driscoll began paying attention to her, she was ready and willing to leave McCarthy and go with him. Though Driscoll was married with a young daughter, he began stepping out with Beezy Garrity. This devastated McCarthy; Beezy was not just one of his whores, she was his girl. Her desertion led to a bitter feud between Dan Driscoll and John McCarthy.

The feud escalated rapidly, and in early June 1886 McCarthy tried to kill Driscoll, firing two shots at him with his British bulldog revolver. On June 26, Driscoll decided to put an end to the matter. At four a.m., Driscoll, carrying his own revolver, paid a visit to the Hester Street lodging house where McCarthy ran his brothel. Beezy came along with him, hoping to forestall any bloodshed.

Inside the building, Driscoll burst open McCarthy’s door. Beezy went in first, then McCarthy pushed back on the door to prevent Driscoll from entering. As the two men pushed from opposite sides, Driscoll stuck the muzzle of his revolver through the crack in the door. McCarthy saw the gun and managed to stay clear. Driscoll fired; the bullet missed McCarthy but hit Beezy in the abdomen. McCarthy then ran down the back stairs followed by Driscoll who fired a second shot, missing McCarthy again.

A police officer heard the shots and after a hard chase captured Driscoll and put him under arrest. Beezy Garrity was taken to St. Vincent’s Hospital where surgeons tried in vain to save her life. As Beezy lay dying, the police questioned her about the incident, and she remained loyal to Driscoll.

She told them John McCarthy had shot her, though the police had already confiscated McCarthy's revolver and saw that it had not recently been fired.

"Do you know that you probably are going to die?" the police captain asked.

"Well, I ain't going back on Dan, all the same," she answered, "'twas McCarthy shot me."

Beezy's mother came in and tried to persuade her daughter not to die with a lie on her lips.

"I won't split on Dan," Beezy said, "McCarthy fired the pistol."

The coroner and a Catholic priest each tried to get her to tell the truth, but in each case she stuck to her story, murmuring in her dying breath that McCarthy had shot her.

The District Attorney was disappointed that Beezy Garrity's dying statement didn't condemn Dan Driscoll, but felt there was enough circumstantial evidence to charge him with her murder.

**Trial:** September 27, 1886



Dan Driscoll was charged with first-degree murder for killing Beezy Garrity. Though Driscoll had not shot her intentionally, the District Attorney wanted to prosecute him for the highest charge possible because of his connection to the Whyos. Driscoll pled not guilty.

His defense attorney was William F. Howe, of the firm Howe and Hummel, the most successful criminal lawyers in the city. Howe and Hummel had often defended members of the Whyos, as well as many other high-profile criminals such as notorious fence "Marm" Mandelbaum and Jacob Rosenzweig, who hid the corpse of a botched abortion in a shipping trunk. William Howe, who was noted for appearing in court wearing

garish waistcoats and flashy jewelry, had in the course of his career defended more than 600 accused murderers.

Howe's defense was aggressive from the beginning. During jury selection, from a pool of fifty-seven prospective jurors, Howe found only nine acceptable. A second pool of twenty-five was questioned before Howe agreed to three more.

The first witness was a woman named Carrie Wilson who was at the Hester Street house the night of the murder who testified that she saw Driscoll force open McCarthy's door and heard the shot that killed Beezy. John McCarthy testified that Driscoll had fired the shot. In cross-examination, he was forced to admit that he had previously served eight years in State Prison for robbery and two weeks earlier had fired shots at Driscoll. He did not deny that he kept a house of ill-fame.

The most damaging testimony against Dan Driscoll came from Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, the mother of Beezy Garrity who believed Driscoll and the Whyos had lured her daughter into a life of shame. On the witness stand she gave an account of her last conversation with Beezy which contradicted what had previously been reported:



Mother: Beezy, I knew something like this would happen to you for not doing as I told you.

Daughter: Mother, what's the use of you talking to me that way now; I'm going to die.

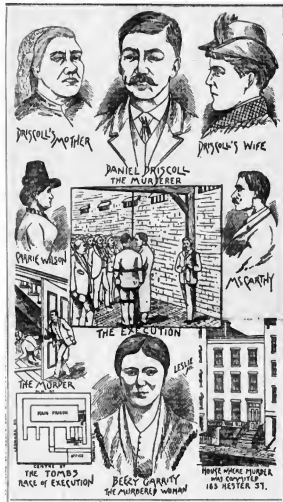
Mother: Who did it to you?

Daughter: 'Twas Danny Driscoll done the deed.

The trial lasted only three days, and the jury quickly returned a verdict of guilty.

**Verdict:** Guilty of first-degree murder

### Aftermath:



Howe moved for a new trial on the grounds that evidence had been allowed relating to McCarthy handing the police a fully loaded pistol as proof of his innocence. He gave them the gun fifteen minutes after the shooting allowing McCarthy plenty of time to substitute another pistol. Recorder Smyth rejected the motion.

Driscoll was sentenced to hang on December 3 but the hanging postponed due to appeals. An appeal the General Term of the State Supreme Court was denied in June 1887. In November, Howe took the case to the Court of Appeals claiming to have evidence that eye-witness Carrie Wilson had not been at the Hester Street house that night. The appeal was denied. Howe went directly to the Governor of New York asking for a pardon, this was denied as well.

While William Howe was attempting to free his client through legal means, Driscoll was looking for illegal ways out. During his trial, the warden of the Tombs prison made a routine inspection of Driscoll's cell and found a three-inch corkscrew with which the prisoner had removed three bricks from the cell wall.

In October 1887, convicted murderer Dan Lyons joined Dan Driscoll on the Tombs' Murderer's Row. This was not the same Dan Lyons who had led the Whyos with Driscoll, but they were kindred spirits were soon working together to escape. Along with a third convicted murderer, they began a hunger strike to protest conditions at the prison. At the same time, Driscoll and Lyons, who had been smuggled a saw blade, each cut an iron rod from his cot to use as a pry bar to break through the cell wall. The heavy bars would be used as weapons should they succeed in breaking through the wall. Warden Walsh uncovered the plan before they could finish.

For Driscoll's most audacious escape plan, one of his visitors had taken a soap impression of the lock and had a duplicate key made. Driscoll had also been smuggled two bottles of kerosene and a false beard. The plan was to start a fire somewhere in the prison and in the confusion, Driscoll would unlock his cell and leave the prison in disguise. Walsh foiled this plan as well.

Driscoll made numerous death threats against the warden, whom he called "Fatty" Walsh. Walsh decided he had had enough. He put Driscoll and Lyons in separate cells made of sheet iron – floor, walls, and ceiling. Within the cell, a woven iron fence separated visitors from the prisoner. Driscoll was allowed no visitors but his wife, Mary.

The hanging was now scheduled for January 20, 1888, but Howe, in his only victory for Driscoll, managed to get a respite of three days. Driscoll used the time to write a sentimental letter to Mary, which was reprinted in the several newspapers. He also took the opportunity to publicly taunt Fatty Walsh. He continued to maintain his innocence of the crime but had become resigned to his fate.

The day before the hanging Driscoll said good bye to his weeping mother and to his devoted wife and child. He had a long conversation with Father Gelinas who told the press, "Dan bears up bravely. He is reconciled to death and thinks that it will be his salvation. He is willing to die."

Dan Driscoll was hanged in the Tombs yard at 7:24, the morning of January 23, 1888, in the presence of the Sheriff, the Sheriff's jury, a few jail officials and ten reporters. He died game.

## Sources:

Asbury, Herbert, *The Gangs of New York* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1928).

"Awaiting the Rope.," *New York Herald*, January 20, 1888.

"Beezy Garrity's Murder," *New York World*, January 23, 1888.

"Dan Driscoll Indicted for Murder," *Cleveland Leader*, July 9, 1886.

"Dan Driscoll Must Hang," *New York Herald*, June 19, 1887.

"Dan Driscoll's Bold Plot.," *New Haven Register*, January 10, 1888.

*Defenders and offenders* (New York: Buchner & Co, 1888).

"Driscoll in a Surly Mood," *New York World*, December 3, 1887.

"Driscoll's Last Hope Gone," *New York Herald*, November 30, 1887.

"Driscoll's Pistol Shot.," *New York Tribune*, September 29, 1886.

"Driscoll's Short Respite.," *New York Herald*, January 19, 1888.

"Iron Cages for Desperadoes ,," *New York Herald*, January 5, 1888.

"Murderers Baffled," *New York Herald*, December 3, 1887.

"The Queen of the Whyo Gang," *The Times*, July 4, 1886.

Riis, Jacob August, *The Making of an American* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901).

Sante, Luc, *Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003).

"Summary of the News," *New York Herald*, October 2, 1886.

"Who Killed Bridget Garrity ,," *New York Herald*, September 28, 1886.

"The Whyo Chief to be Hanged ,," *New York Herald*, October 9, 1886.

"'Whyo Dan' is Hanged," *Daily Critic*, January 23, 1888.

"The Whyo Exults," *New York World*, January 21, 1888.

Posted by Robert Wilhelm

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

# The Museum of Failure showcases — and celebrates — really terrible ideas

2017/04/06

cbc.ca

Thursday April 06, 2017

## The Museum of Failure showcases — and celebrates — really terrible ideas



Samuel West holds up the Nokia N-Gage, a hybrid phone and gaming system from 2003 that is now part of the Museum of Failure's collection. (Samuel West)

Do you want to own a mobile device that's just for tweeting? Or a portable mask that zaps your face with electrical charges?

Yeah, turns out nobody else does either. But you can learn all about those and other failed products at Sweden's new Museum of Failure.

"I'm an innovation researcher, and the past six years of consuming all the literature, going to conferences, I got kind of fed up with everybody's worshipping of success all the time,"

Samuel West, the museum's founder, told *As It Happens* host Carol Off.

"I know, and everybody in the business knows, that 80 to 90 per cent of all innovation products fail, but we never hear anything about them."

'There's a saying that it's wise to learn from your own mistakes but it's even wiser to learn from the mistakes of others.' - Samuel West

That's a shame, he said. West believes we can learn a lot by studying our failures.

"So I started collecting a few," he said. "And then it turned into an obsession."

Eventually, he amassed so many flops, he decided to open a museum, inspired largely by Croatia's Museum of Broken Relationships, which "explores broken love and other human relationships — what they mean to us, what they tell us about what we share and how we can learn and grow from them."

"I just thought this museum is awesome, and after that I had to start the Museum of Failure."

### A machine just for tweeting

So what's on display?

There's the Twitter Peek, a 2009 pocket-sized device just for tweeting.

"Oh, I love that one. It's beautiful!" West said with a sigh. "It only tweets. It has no other function, right? The only problem was it doesn't even tweet very well."





A 2009 review of TweetPeek from TechCrunch notes: 'While I'm sure this will be relegated to the dustbin of history, we can say we were alive at a moment when a service gained so much traction that it was made flesh.' (Amazon )

Tweets can have 140 characters, but you can only see about 25 at a time on the Twitter Peek's tiny screen.

"So partial tweet on a tweet-tweeting device," West said.

### A pen just for ladies

Bic For Her pens are also on display. The supposedly female-friendly pink and purple pens launched to widespread derision and mockery in 2012.



One Amazon reviewer writes of these: 'These pens make me feel so feminine and desirable. I can barely keep the men away when I'm holding one of these in my dainty hand.' (Amazon)

mean, you know that women can't use regular pens. You need special pens for their delicate hands," West said. "And they're double the price of regular pens because they're specially for women."

### An outlaw cologne that smells like pee

There's an old bottle of Harley-Davidson cologne from the motorcycle company's short-lived '90s line of beauty products dubbed "Hot Rods."

"That's a great one!" said West.

"Harley-Davidson thought that they would get some more money out of their brand — their macho, free-rider, super macho man brand image," he said. "And it didn't resonate with the Harley-Davidson macho guys. They were like, 'What? We don't want any perfume!'"

Asked if it smells like oil and exhaust fumes, West said it's much worse.

"My colleagues at the office say — I put it on when I finally got a hold of it — and then they said, 'Somebody smells like urine!'" he said. "I think that's unfair. I mean, it's been in the bottle for a long time. But it's not the best cologne."



Motorcycle lovers did not much care for Harley-Davidson cologne. (Samuel West)

## And much, much more

There's the Rejuvenique, a mask that literally shocks the wearer — all in the name of beauty, of course.

Coca-Cola Blak is a coffee-infused version of the soda that existed between 2006 and 2008.



This coffee-flavoured cola lasted from 2006 to 2008. But someone must have liked it, because the internet is full of recipes for a homemade version. (Samuel West)

Donald Trump has had success with real-estate, reality TV, and most recently, the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but his board game failed twice — after its original launch in 1989, and again after its 2015 relaunch tied to *The Apprentice*, according to Time.

Still, it's not all fun and games at the Museum of Failure, West said.



A man holds up a copy of the Donald Trump board game at a 2015 campaign rally. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

## 'Some tragic things as well'

"It's easy to laugh at it at first, like, Oh that's a strange idea,' but then there's something deeply human about it, as well," he said.

For example, he has Kodak's first digital camera on display. The product itself was not a flop, West said, but it is representative of how Kodak failed to adapt its business model to change with the times and went bankrupt in 2012,

"The fact that 160,000 people lost their jobs and Kodak went bankrupt, that's sad in many

ways," West said. "Some of the medical innovations that I have, patients died. So it's not only fun and ridiculous products, there's some tragic things as well."

West hopes that people will actually learn something from the exhibition, which will open in Helsingborg on June 7.

"There's a saying that it's wise to learn from your own mistakes, but it's even wiser to learn from the mistakes of others," he said. "I think failure gets way too little attention."



*Kodak's first digital camera was technically a success, but that didn't stop the company from going bankrupt in the digital era. (Samuel West)*

To encourage thoughtful and respectful conversations, first and last names will appear with each submission to CBC/Radio-Canada's online communities (except in children and youth-oriented communities). Pseudonyms will no longer be permitted.

By submitting a comment, you accept that CBC has the right to reproduce and publish that comment in whole or in part, in any manner CBC chooses. Please note that CBC does not endorse the opinions expressed in comments. Comments on this story are moderated according to our Submission Guidelines. Comments are welcome while open. We reserve the right to close comments at any time.

## Submission Policy

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are moderated and published according to our submission guidelines.

CBC

Radio-Canada

©2017 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved

Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Shocking farmer as mutant piglet is born with a trunk on forehead

12:46 EST, 3 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

### Mutant piglet is born in China with only one eye and a bizarre 'elephant trunk' on its forehead

- The newborn piglet from eastern China has a trunk-like nose above its eye
- It has no hair and the piglet's snout is seriously deformed with only one eye
- It is unclear what has caused the deformity and it died two hours after birth

By Tiffany Lo For Mailonline

Video footage has emerged of a mutant piglet born in a village in China with a trunk-like nose.

The piglet was one of 20 babies born on March 1 in Bengbu, China's Anhui province.

It was born hairless with one eye and a trunk-like nose with a deformed snout. The other piglets were said to be normal and healthy.



The deformed piglet has only one eye and a trunk-like nose on the top of its head

Unfortunately the piglet did not survive after two hours the sow gave birth to 20 piglets

Mr Lin, the pig farmer told Pear in an interview that the piglet died just two hours after it was born.

It is unclear what has caused the deformity of the piglet.

Guo Baoyong, zoo president from Bengbu Zhanggongshan Park, said the piglet's genes could have mutated while the sow was mating.

The piglet has been sent to a laboratory for testing.

Unfortunately the piglet did not survive after two hours the sow gave birth to 20 piglets



A zoo president said the piglet's genes could have mutated while the sow was mating

Last year, a similar looking piglet was born with an elephant nose in Cambodia. It had fanned ears, a trunk-like nose.



The animal appears to be scrawny, limp and cannot open its eyes, with serious physical deformities.



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Myra Hindley told police she was blackmailed into Moors murders

21:52 EDT, 18 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk



MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Child killer Myra Hindley told police she was blackmailed into committing Moors murders by lover Ian Brady after he drugged her, took naked pictures and threatened to show her family

- Hindley claims her lover spiked her drink then took naked pictures of her
- She alleged Ian Brady threatened to release them and wanted 'perfect murder'
- First killing came days later - they eventually took the lives of four more children
- Hindley tried to blame Brady for the abhorrent crimes in interviews with police
- She told detectives: 'He became my God, my idol, my object of worship'

By Scott Campbell For Mailonline



Myra Hindley, pictured, was jailed for three murders in 1966 along with her lover Ian Brady. She died in prison aged 60 in 2002

Myra Hindley claims she was blackmailed into committing the Moors murders after her lover Ian Brady spiked her drink and took explicit pictures of her before threatening to kill her grandmother.

The couple's first killing came just days later in July 1963 when they slaughtered 16-year-old Pauline Reade before going on to murder four more children.

The serial killer tried to blame Brady for the abhorrent crimes as she told police: 'He became my God, my idol, my object of worship. I worshiped him blindly.'

In an extraordinary confession released today Hindley claims that her lover spiked her drink then took pornographic photographs of her while she was unconscious.

She alleged that Brady then threatened to release the images and 'push [her] granny down the stairs' while claiming he wanted to commit the 'perfect murder'.

According to the Mirror, she told police: 'He intended to do it and needed my help. He showed me pornographic photos taken the night he drugged me.'

'He said if I didn't comply he'd let my family see them.'

After drugging her, Hindley claimed that Brady concocted a bizarre excuse - telling her that he planned to put down his 'old and sick' dog and was simply testing the drugs.

The shocking details come from her interviews with former detective Peter Topping who gathered 700 pages of evidence as he took Hindley back to the Moors in 1987 amid a hunt for the missing bodies of victims.



Hindley was jailed for three murders in 1966 along with her lover Ian Brady. They later confessed to another two murders before she died aged 60 in prison in 2002.



Hindley alleged that Ian Brady, pictured, threatened to release pornographic images taken while she was drugged unconscious



The shocking details come from Hindley's interviews with former detective Peter Topping. He gathered 700 pages of evidence as he took Hindley, pictured, back to the Moors in 1987 amid a hunt for the missing bodies of victims

He has spent decades in Ashworth psychiatric hospital where he is force-fed at a cost of £300,000 a year.

It comes just a day after two bullet shells which matched a gun belonging to Brady were discovered.

It is a development hailed as close to a breakthrough by experts investigating the case of victim Keith Bennett - whose body has never been found.

Jailed serial killer Brady suggested a shotgun found on Saddleworth Moor last year was part of a secret arsenal of weapons he kept.

The Eibar double-barrelled weapon, in its original case, was found wrapped in a polythene sheet beneath rocks under an oak tree.



The Eibar double-barrelled weapon was found wrapped in a polythene sheet beneath rocks under an oak tree by police, pictured above

It was uncovered in December by a group searching for the remains of Keith Bennett, who was 12 when he was murdered.

Now investigator Darren Rae believes he is getting close to a breakthrough.

He told Manchester Evening News: 'Brady had sick fantasies about shooting someone.'

'It is possible Keith's body may still hold the two bullets that can be matched to the shell casings I found.

'It is a really sad and tragic case, but I know I am so close to solving it. I want to bring some closure to Keith's family. The ultimate aim is to find his body.'



## Comments

Little fox ....., Cheshire, United Kingdom, 10 minutes ago

Evil that will go down in history as the most gruesome twosome of all in time in child murder ..I remember signing the petition when i was working in lewis's department store, with my friend...They both should have hanged back in the day...We all thought ..

Raija Helena, Riihimäki, Finland, 11 minutes ago

Yes, OF COURSE you were. Is that the best you can come up with in spite of all those years in the s l a m m e r???

Fishboy2016, Halifax, United Kingdom, 8 minutes ago

She's dead. Past tense needed I think

Caliope, London, United Kingdom, 17 minutes ago

Every female killer tries to exploit our sexist legal system by saying they were forced so as to get even more leniency fofo their actions

Rosered13, Manchester, United Kingdom, 21 minutes ago

The sun was shining and birds were singing the day this excuse for a human being finally died. And good riddance. She is not missed and neither will Brady be when he finally falls off his perch

Walt26, Wirral, United Kingdom, 24 minutes ago

Would this be the same Hindley that was studying for degree in nick?????.....endorsed of course by our liberal elite imbeciles???????

Jake, Co. Durham, United Kingdom, 25 minutes ago

This is very old news which has been in the public domain for many years. I also believe it to be complete nonsense as I'm sure Hindley's mother would have rather seen those pictures than to have her daughter take part in some of the most evil crimes in British criminal history. She was simply desperate for her freedom, which she thankfully never got.

blazing saddles, HyBrazil, United Kingdom, 26 minutes ago

appearances in the news becoming a little thin Hindley? Rot behind bars you monster, no one wants to hear your side of anything.

Freddie Bearcurry, City of Westminster, United Kingdom, 16 minutes ago

She's dead, he's not..yet.

AnEnglishmanAbroad, Sydney, Australia, 16 minutes ago

Err... she died several years ago.

Rosered13, Manchester, United Kingdom, 28 minutes ago

Liar liar pants on fire Hindley.

bobmirdiff, Manila, Philippines, 30 minutes ago

Forensic Evidence of the Gun, Polythene Sheet, and Shell Casings??? - After nearly 60 Years?

Reubenene, Victoria, Australia, 40 minutes ago

No decent woman - or human being - could be "blackmailed" into committing the atrocities she played a part in for anything in the entire world.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Someone Keeps Stashing Bottles Of Sauce Around This Library

huffingtonpost.com

### Thirty and counting.

By Lee Moran

It's a mouth-watering mystery.

Staff at the Avon Lake Public Library in Ohio are scratching their heads as to who keeps planting empty A.1. sauce bottles around the building, and for what reason.

Since January, employees have found 30 of the 10-ounce containers hidden on shelves, among newspapers and magazines. All were clean with "just a hint of the sauce odor inside," the library revealed in a Facebook post.

Mystery of the A1 bottles!! Since January we have been finding empty, clean, A1 Steak Sauce bottles (just a hint of the...

Posted by Avon Lake Public Library on Tuesday, March 7, 2017

"We mapped the first 12 to see if we could find a pattern, but we couldn't find a discernible pattern," the library's page supervisor, Dan Cotton, told The Chronicle-Telegram.

Jill Ralston, the library's public relations coordinator, doubted any bad-natured intent on the part of the anonymous prankster.

Staff have suggested that the bottles' baffling appearance could be linked to the geocache located just outside the library.

Facebook users, meanwhile, have advanced their own ideas — putting forward "dragon magic," a restaurant industry book worm or a fan as being responsible for the stunt.

As of Tuesday, the mystery remained unsolved. The Huffington Post has reached out for an update.

The truth is stranger than fiction. Step into the world of weird news. Learn more

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## The Mystery of Roanoke Endures Yet Another Cruel Twist

smithsonianmag.com

### An artifact found 20 years ago turns out to not be what archaeologists thought



The lost colony of Roanoke (Science History Images / Alamy Stock Photo)

By Andrew Lawler

smithsonian.com

April 7, 2017 3:01PM

It seemed too good to be true. And it was.

Nearly 20 years ago, excavators digging on North Carolina's remote Hatteras Island uncovered a worn ring emblazoned with a prancing lion. A local jeweler declared it gold—but it came to be seen as more than mere buried treasure when a British

heraldry expert linked it to the Kendall family involved in the 1580s Roanoke voyages organized by Sir Walter Raleigh during Elizabeth I's reign.

The 1998 discovery electrified archaeologists and historians. The artifact seemed a rare remnant of the first English attempt to settle the New World that might also shed light on what happened to 115 men, women, and children who settled the coast, only to vanish in what became known as the Lost Colony of Roanoke.

Now it turns out that researchers had it wrong from the start.

A team led by archaeologist Charles Ewen recently subjected the ring to a lab test at East Carolina University. The X-ray fluorescence device, shaped like a cross between a ray gun and a hair dryer, reveals an object's precise elemental composition without destroying any part of it. Ewen was stunned when he saw the results.

"It's all brass," he said. "There's no gold at all."



*The ring, previously thought to be gold, turns out to be brass.*

The ring, previously thought to be gold, turns out to be brass. (Charles Ewen/ECU)

North Carolina state conservator Erik Farrell, who conducted the analysis at an ECU facility, found high levels of copper in the ring, along with some zinc and traces of silver, lead, tin and nickel. The ratios, Farrell said, "are typical of brass" from early modern times. He found no evidence that the ring had gilding on its surface, throwing years

of speculation and research into serious doubt.

“Everyone wants it to be something that a Lost Colonist dropped in the sand,” added Ewen. He said it is more likely that the ring was a common mass-produced item traded to Native Americans long after the failed settlement attempt.

Not all archaeologists agree, however, and the surprise results are sure to reignite the debate over the fate of the Lost Colony.

The settlers arrived from England in the summer of 1587, led by John White. They rebuilt an outpost on Roanoke Island, 50 miles north of Hatteras, abandoned by a previous band of colonists. White’s group included his daughter Eleanor, who soon gave birth to Virginia Dare, the first child born of English parents in the New World.

White quickly departed for England to gather supplies and additional colonists, but his return was delayed by the outbreak of war with Spain. When he finally managed to land on Roanoke Island three years later, the settlement was deserted. The only clue was the word “Croatoan” carved on a post, the name of a tribe allied with the English and the island now called Hatteras.

ECU archaeologist David Phelps, now deceased, found the ring while excavating a Native American village there and took it to a jeweler named Frank Riddick in nearby Nags Head. Phelps reported that the jeweler tested the ring and determined it was 18-carat gold.

Riddick, who now runs a fishing charter company called Fishy Bizness, recalled recently that he didn’t conduct an acid-scratch test typically used to verify the presence and quality of the precious metal. “Since this wasn’t about buying or selling, we didn’t do that,” he said. “I just told him that I thought it was gold.” Phelps apparently didn’t want to subject the object to potential damage.

A senior member of London’s College of Arms subsequently noted that the seal on the signet ring was of a lion passant, and suggested that it might relate to the Kendall family of Devon and Cornwall. A Master Kendall was part of the first colonization attempt in 1585, while another Kendall visited Croatoan when a fleet led by Sir Francis Drake stopped by in 1586. Though this link was never confirmed, the object was nicknamed the Kendall ring.

Since Phelps thought the ring was made of a precious material and likely belonged to the Elizabethan era, he argued it was an important clue. “That doesn’t mean the Lost Colony was here,” he told a reporter at the dig site after the ring’s discovery. “But this begins to authenticate that.”

Some archaeologists, however, were skeptical of the artifact’s connection to Roanoke, given that it was found with other artifacts dating to between 1670 and 1720—about a century after the Elizabethan voyages. This was also an era in which brass rings showed up at Native American sites up and down the East Coast.

But Mark Horton, an archaeologist at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, says that Ewen’s results don’t necessarily preclude that it belonged to a Roanoke colonist. “The fact that the ring is brass actually makes it more similar to other British examples,” he said, noting that the ring could have been made in the 1580s. “I would argue that it was kept as an heirloom, passed down, and then discarded.”

Horton is currently digging at the Hatteras site where the ring was discovered. The excavations, sponsored by the Croatoan Archaeological Society, have so far uncovered several artifacts that may



have been made during Elizabethan times, including the handle of a rapier and bits of metal from clothing.

If the Lost Colonists left Roanoke for Croatoan in the late 1580s, argues Horton, they might have brought along their most precious objects. Over a couple of generations they may have assimilated with the Algonquian-speaking Croatoan people and their English heirlooms would have eventually worn out. “Oh, there’s granddad’s old sword in the corner rusting away,” said Horton. “Why are we keeping that?”

His theory is also based on archaeological finds that show that Native Americans on Hatteras manufactured lead shot and used guns to hunt deer and birds by the 1650s. Prior to this, their diet was based heavily on fish and shellfish. The technological sophistication, Horton suggests, hints at the presence of Europeans before the second wave of English arrived in the area in the late 1600s. That, too, could point to the presence of assimilated colonists and their descendants.

That theory is a stretch, says archaeologist Charles Heath, who worked with Phelps and was present when the ring was found. “Such items would have been used, modified, traded, re-traded, lost, discarded or curated by their native owners—and subsequent native owners—for many years,” he argued. In the end, he said, “a stray 16th-century artifact found here and there on the Outer Banks will not make for a Lost Colony found.”

Horton acknowledges that rather than Roanoke colony possessions brought along by assimilating English, the Croatoan people could have acquired the goods from Jamestown, the later Virginia colony to the north, instead. Gunflints, coins, and glass beads found at the site almost certainly came from the newer English settlement. But he is confident that the current excavations will soon reveal additional evidence.

Meanwhile, the hunt for the Lost Colony continues. Another group of archaeologists working about 50 miles west of Roanoke Island at the head of Albemarle Sound say that they have pottery and metal artifacts likely associated with the Lost Colony. The digs by the First Colony Foundation were sparked by the 2012 discovery of a patch concealing the image of a fort on a map painted by John White.

But like the finds at Hatteras, the objects might be associated with the second wave of English settlement.

Last fall, a dig by the National Park Service at Fort Raleigh on Roanoke Island—thought to be the site of the original settlement—yielded no trace of the colonists. But earlier in 2016, archaeologists did find a handful of fragments of an apothecary jar that almost certainly date from the 16th century.

That the gold Kendall ring is likely a cheap brass trade item won’t derail the quest to find out what took place on the Outer Banks more than four centuries ago. As for Ewen, he hopes that the analysis of the ring will help put researchers back on track in their search for scarce clues to the Roanoke settlers. “Science actually does work,” he said—“if you give it time.”

Andrew Lawler is a contributing writer for *Science* magazine and author of *Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?: The Epic Saga of the Bird that Powers Civilization*. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, and other publications. [View Andrew Lawler's website.](#)

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## A Mystery Solved by a Skeleton.

murderbygaslight.com



A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, February 25, 2017

(From *New York Tribune*, September 12, 1884)

**A MYSTERY SOLVED BY A SKELETON.**

COMPLICITY OF A WIFE IN THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN.  
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BEAVER FALLS, W. Va., Sept. 11.—The mystery surrounding one of the most remarkable crimes committed in the Coal Valley has been cleared up by a singular chain of circumstances. Some fifteen years ago the family of John Ireland lived in a cabin a short distance from this town. The family consisted of the husband, wife and three children. One Thompson, who had been in the neighborhood for some months and was a frequent visitor at the Ireland cabin, called there one morning and found, so he at the time reported, the dead bodies of the three children, all young, lying on the floor in pools of blood. Ireland and his wife were missing. Thompson gave an alarm at the nearest house a mile away and a search for the missing people was made. After some time Mrs. Ireland was found gagged and bound to a tree. She affected to be nearly frantic and claimed that her husband committed the deed. As he was missing she was believed. Soon after Thompson and the woman began living together. They quarrelled frequently and one day she was found dead in her bed. No inquest was held and it was given out that she died of heart disease. Thompson disappeared four or five years ago.

On Tuesday a party of boys came to the mouth of a shaft that had been sunk years before for coal, but for some cause was abandoned. While standing at its edge one of them dropped a knife into the shaft. They determined to recover it. Precautions were taken against foul air and by the aid of a rope and torch the boy was lowered to the bottom a distance of twenty-five feet. A scream of terror caused him to rapidly draw up when he declared there was a skeleton in the shaft. The authorities made examination and brought up few bones and a rusty tin tobacco box. In it was found a document written by Ireland saying that Thompson aided by Ireland's wife had attempted to kill him but at first only stunned him, that recovering he discovered the three children dead. Seeing he was alive they again beat him and carried him out for dead and threw him into the shaft. He recovered and wrote the note after vainly calling aid. Undoubtedly Mrs. Ireland was bound to the tree by her accomplice to throw suspicion on the husband.

**Complicity of a Wife in the Murder of Her Husband and Children.**

**[By Telegraph got the Tribune]**

Beaver Falls, W. Va., Sept. 11.—The mystery surrounding one of the most remarkable crimes committed in the Coal Valley has been cleared up by a singular chain of circumstances. Some fifteen years ago the family of John Ireland lived in a cabin a short distance from this town. The family consisted of husband, wife and three children. One Thompson, who had been in the neighborhood for some months was a frequent visitor at the Ireland cabin, called there one morning and found, so he at the time reported, the dead bodies of the three children, all young lying on the floor in pools of blood. Ireland and his wife were missing. Thompson gave an alarm at the nearest house a mile away and a search for the missing people was made. After some time Mrs. Ireland was found gagged and bound to a tree. She affected to be nearly frantic and claimed that her husband had committed the deed. As he was missing she was believed. Soon after Thompson and the woman began living together. They quarrelled frequently and one day she was found dead in her bed. No inquest was held and it was given out that she died of heart disease. Thompson disappeared four or five years ago.

On Tuesday, a party of boys came to the mouth of a shaft that had been sunk years before for coal, but for some cause was abandoned. While standing at its edge one of them dropped a knife into the shaft. They determined to recover it. Precautions were taken against foul air and by the aid of a rope and torch the boy was lowered to the bottom a distance of twenty-five feet. A scream of terror caused him to rapidly draw up when he declared there was a skeleton in the shaft. The authorities made examination and brought up few bones and a rusty tin tobacco box. In it was found a document written by Ireland saying that Thompson aided by Ireland's wife had attempted to kill him but at first only stunned him, that recovering he discovered the three children dead. Seeing he was alive they again beat him and carried him out for dead and threw him into the shaft. He recovered and wrote the note after vainly calling aid. Undoubtedly Mrs. Ireland was bound to the tree by her accomplice to throw suspicion on the husband.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/  
 .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }  
 .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Neighbours baffled after naked female clown spotted strolling around town

By Catherine Phillips Ian Murphy 00:45, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 00:46, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Neighbours baffled after naked female clown covered head-to-toe in white paint spotted strolling by river

**WARNING CONTAINS NUDITY:** There have been numerous sightings of the mystery woman casually wandering beside the River Severn in Worcester



Neighbours have been left baffled by the eye-popping sighting of a female clown strolling around NAKED in broad daylight.

The mystery woman was spotted walking by a riverside wearing a red nose and painted head-to-toe in white paint.

She was spotted casually wandering beside the River Severn in Worcester near to the city centre on Sunday.

Shocked Judith Porter, 46, managed to take a picture of the bizarre scene as she walked her

dog at 9am.

Locals have been left baffled by the sightings of the clown and fear it may be linked to the killer clown craze which swept the UK in October.

Yesterday, admin worker Judith said that wasn't the first time she had seen the clown - who had a "vacant expression" on her face.

Judith, who lives with partner George Phillips, 48, in Worcester, added: "I was enjoying a nice stroll with my dog Bobby when I was shocked by the sight of a naked clown.

"This isn't the first time I have seen this clown, she appears on the odd Sunday mornings.

"The sightings disturb my usual walk along the scenic bridge in Worcester.

"The clown in this instance walks across the bridge and seemed to be walking to the Cathedral only then to turn around.

"The clown seemed to have a vacant expression and said nothing.

"I wonder if other people have also spotted the clown and why she has not been arrested.

"The blonde haired woman in the photo was as shocked as I was."

Judith's partner George, who works as an IT consultant, added: "We are quite concerned about it.

"We are not religious at all but it does seem odd that this only occurs on Sunday mornings.

"We just feel it is not appropriate at all for someone to do this.

"Whether it is a joke linked to the clown craze from last year or something more sinister, whoever it is needs to stop."

Other residents took to social media to express their dismay at the unusual sighting in their city.

Felicity Johnstone said: "I hate clowns and this would frighten the living daylights out of me if I saw her on my morning jog.

"It chills me to the bone just looking at these pictures."

While Andy Morris added: "There could have been children walking around at that time and this could scar them for life. Utterly terrifying."

But James Chesterfield wrote: "She's not doing anybody any harm. Good on her. This is what makes Worcester such an interesting place."

A spokeswoman for West Mercia Police said no incidents relating to the naked woman clown had been reported to them.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Nude man balances dangerously on window-ledge 'after partner's lover comes home'

By Rachel Bishop 21:43, 16 MAR 2017 Updated 00:56, 17 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**An eagle-eyed neighbour spotted the man cowering beneath the ledge several floors above street level**



It seems like this rather suspicious-looking naked chap could have been caught out after his lover's partner came home unexpectedly.

That's at least what one Facebook user thought when they spotted him in his precarious hiding place - with not a thing to hide his modesty.

He was filmed seemingly cowering out of sight from someone in the room while several floors up from street level.

Eagle-eyed neighbour Naphtal Ngatali spotted him and decided to share the

footage on Facebook - where it has now been seen more than 1.3million times.



The video, captioned in French: 'But I live where?', shows his precarious position.

"Who sent you there my brother?" Ngatali wrote, adding: "He's seriously in trouble."

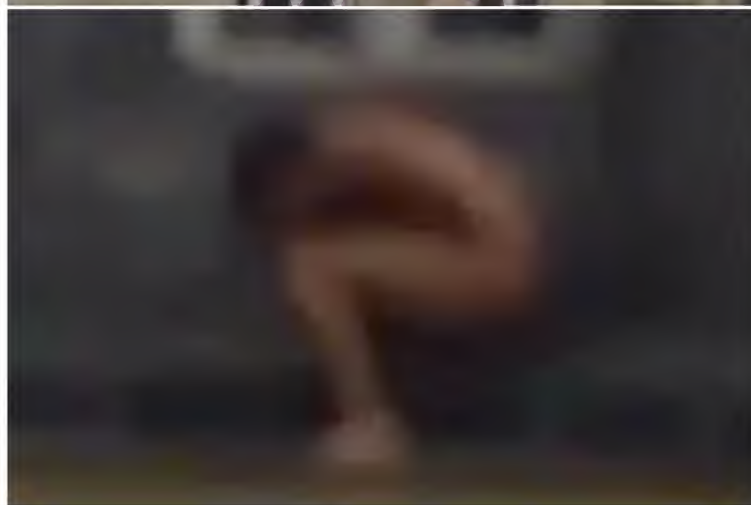
"You risk your life for the wife of someone? It's dead stupid huh?"

While many people commenting on the video agreed with Ngatali, others thought the man could have been a teenage boy caught out in his girlfriend's room when her parents came home.

One person wrote: "The husband will see the video on fb (and) he's gonna laugh 30 sec and will then realise that it's the facade of his apartment."

While another wrote: "We can't prove this is adultery. Maybe it's a teenager at his girlfriend's house and her parents have just returned home?"

- © 2016 MGN Limited



/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Neighbors at war over manure pile visible on Google Earth

fox4kc.com

Posted 4:13 pm, January 30, 2017, by Tribune Media Wire



NEW BRUNSWICK, Canada – Good fences make good neighbors, so long as that fence isn't made of manure, apparently.

A Canadian couple has been awarded \$15,000 in damages, to be paid by neighbors who have also been banned by the judge's Jan. 19 decision from spreading manure within about 1,000 feet of David and Joan Gallant's property.

The *Calgary Herald* reports the Gallants bought their place in rural New Brunswick in 2001; between then and November 2013, things went south with their Indian Mountain neighbors, Lee and Shirley Murray.

The Gallants alleged that in that month, load upon load of “fresh, unseasoned, wet, raw manure” was dumped by the Murrays onto land adjacent to their own property.



To get a sense of scale, there was enough of it that it was visible via a Google Earth photo. The Gallants say nearly an entire year passed before they complained to the New Brunswick Farm Practices Review Board; a short time later, the manure pile was removed.

But when the board in December 2014 determined the manure positioning was an “unacceptable farming practice,” the Gallants alleged the Murrays retaliated in the form of a long scratch on their car.

Early the next year, the Gallants sued, outlining a litany of other alleged transgressions, including rocks forced onto their land via a snowblower. The Murrays say they will appeal.



America isn't free from its own manure-related debacles. WJAR reported in September on a tussle between Rhode Island neighbors. Gerald Zarrella had been hosting weddings on his Exeter property, and claimed his neighbors dumped chicken manure near it in retaliation; the neighbors were ordered to move the manure.

(Horse manure is at the heart of a legal dispute over religious freedom.)

This article originally appeared on Newser: Neighbors War Over Manure Pile Visible via Google Earth

• Copyright © 2017, WDAF

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Cities is supported by

About this content

From an elevated 19th-century pneumatic railway to a skyscraper cathedral and a Native American alternative to the Statue of Liberty, *Never Built New York* chronicles ambitious plans for the city which never saw the light of day

, by Greg Goldin and Sam Lubell, is published by Metropolis Books

**Nick Van Mead**

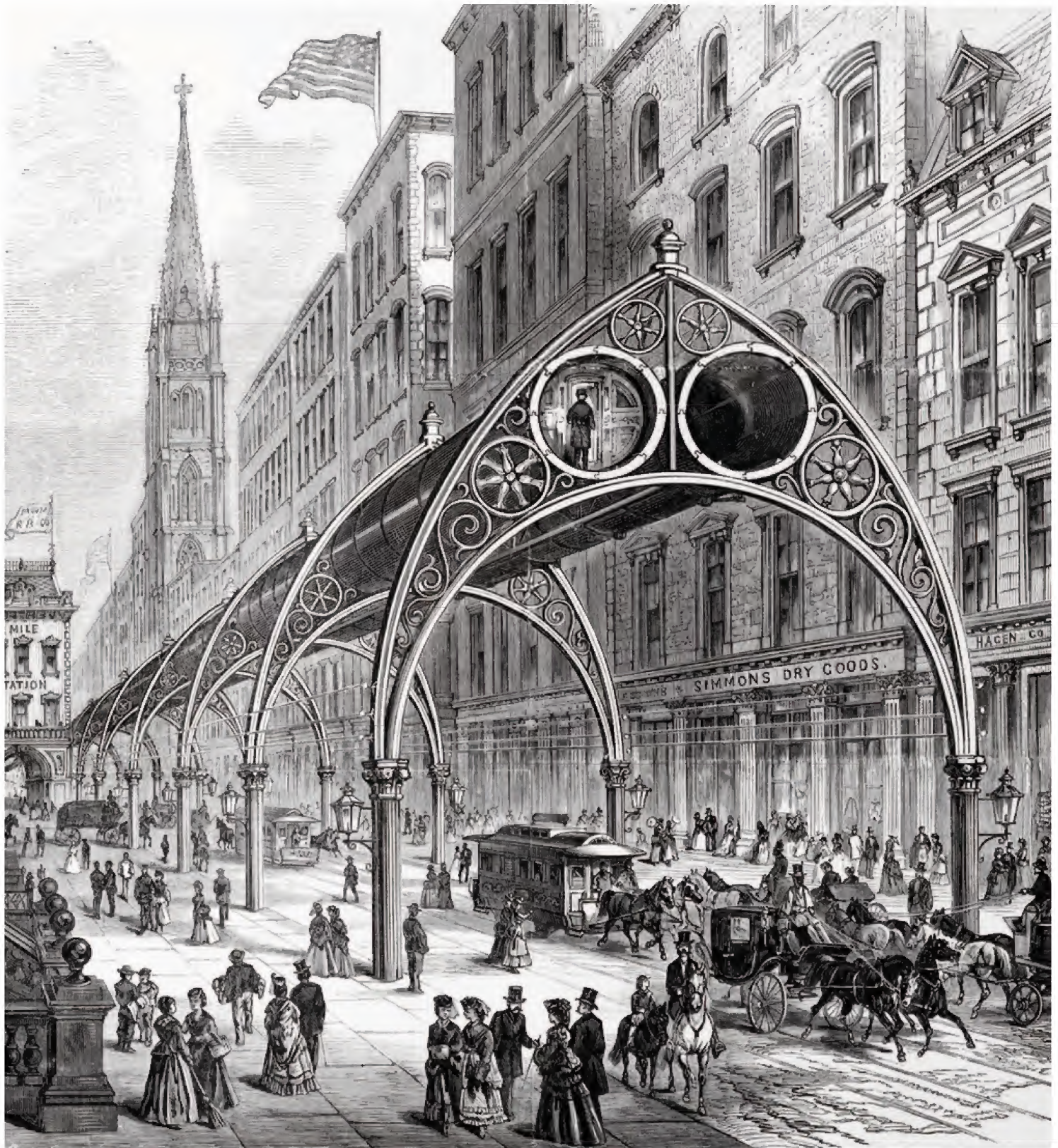
Thursday 12 January 2017 07.48 EST

•

## Pneumatic Elevated Railway - 1880 - Rufus Henry Gilbert

Henry Gilbert's design was a hybrid of Alfred Beach's air-powered underground and Charles T Harvey's cable-powered elevated railway. Passengers would be moved through a double row of 'atmospheric tubes' suspended from wrought-iron Gothic arches, held on slender Corinthian columns. The Wall Street Panic of 1873 killed Gilbert's untested scheme but a conventional steam-powered elevated railway was eventually built - the Sixth Avenue El opened in 1878. It closed in 1938 and was razed the following year. ***All images courtesy of Metropolis Books***





## North River Bridge - 1887 - Gustav Lindenthal

Gustav Lindenthal - designer of the Hell Gate and Queensboro bridges - once proposed a 6,500-ft long bridge strung between two steel towers soaring 500 feet above the Hudson river. On either shore, 17-storey anchorages dwarfed the buildings on the Hoboken and 23rd Street landings,



each containing 50% more masonry than the largest Egyptian pyramid. Ground was broken and a foundation laid in Hoboken, but the crash of 1893 scuttled the privately funded enterprise



THE MOST MIGHTY ENGINEERING FEAT OF BRIDGE BUILDING KNOWN TO THE WORLD.

Congress Asked to Approve the Project for Uniting Hoboken and New York City by Spanning the North River With a Monster Steel Structure.

## Grand Central Terminal - 1903 - McKim, Mead and White

Grand Central Terminal's magnificent Great Hall almost never existed. McKim, Mead and White - renowned for Penn Station and other grand Beaux-Arts edifices - were favourites to win a 1903 competition to design the station. They proposed a 14-storey building highlighted by a 60-storey tower resembling a Catalan church campanile. Park Avenue, elevated above the exposed tracks outside the station, was to run straight through the terminal. Inside, the barrel-vaulted hall recalled the great railway sheds of Europe. A rival scheme won the day





## • National American Indian memorial - 1909 - Thomas Hastings and Daniel Chester French

The memorial was the brainchild of Rodman Wanamaker, son of a men's clothing-store king, who came up with the idea one night after dining out with Old West showman Buffalo Bill Cody. The plan included a statue Indian chief, his hand extending to sea in the sign of peace. It won congressional approval and President William Howard Taft broke ground in 1913, but the first world war and waning interest from Wanamaker meant the memorial was forgotten

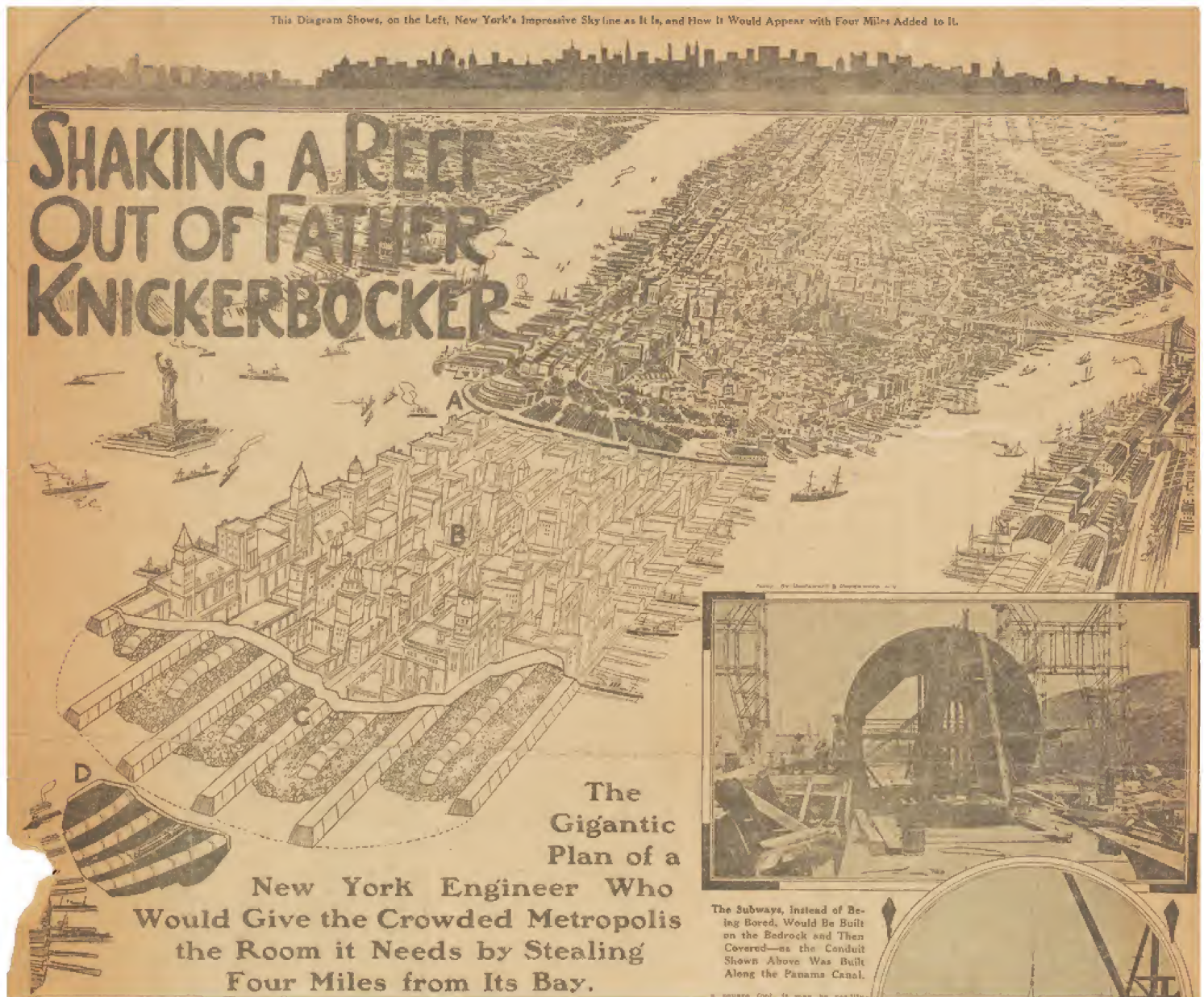


- 
- 

## City of New Manhattan – 1911 – T Kennard Thomson

From Ellis Island to Battery Park City, New York has been built on landfill, but few plans were as ambitious as T Kennard Thomson's proposal to create 50 square miles of land and 100 miles of new waterfront in Upper New York Bay. Despite much attention and flashy endorsements, the \$600-750m plan never received municipal backing





## Skyscraper bridges - 1925 - Raymond Hood

Raymond Hood - designer of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, the Daily News Building and the American Radiator Building - planned a series of 'apartment bridges' to reduce congestion and provide a unique, water-focused lifestyle. The plan featured 50 to 60-storey towers of apartments for 50,000 people on either side of a broad roadway built on a suspension bridge. There were shops, theatres and walkways, while lifts granted residents access to the river. 'Not to embrace this opportunity is to neglect the very pick of metropolitan locations,' said Hood





## Convocation Tower - 1929 - Bertram Goodhue

As skyscrapers proliferated across New York, architects imagined new forms for the tallest buildings. One of the finest was sketched by Bertram Goodhue, who had designed a number of churches in the city. Goodhue came up with Convocation Tower, an 80-storey, 1,000-ft-tall,

streamline Gothic skyscraper cathedral for the Interchurch World Movement on Madison Square Garden. Its main floor would have contained a church, with commercial tenants above, helping the congregation pay for its operations









## Manhattan airport - 1945 - William Zeckendorf

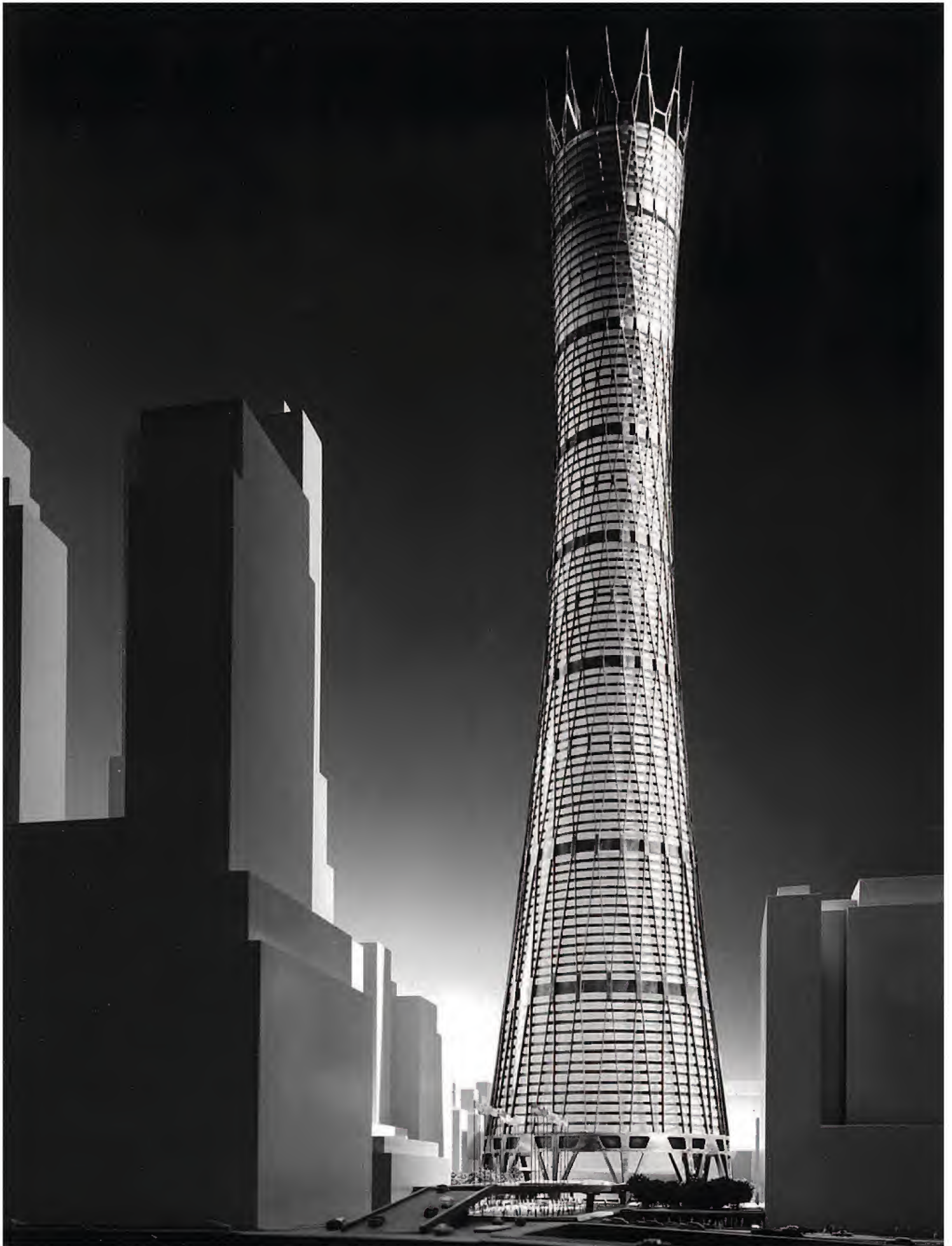
Even for real estate mogul William Zeckendorf, the plan for a 144-square-block airport rising 200 feet above street level was over the top. He hoped the city would finance the \$3bn cost of the airport, which would stretch from 24th to 71st streets, and from Ninth Avenue to the river. Factories, shops, apartments, railways and steamship terminals would all be built beneath the vast deck. Life magazine featured the plans in 1946 under the heading ‘New York City’s Dream Airport’, but commissioner Robert Moses dismissed the plans as ‘ridiculous’.



## Hyperboloid - 1954 - IM Pei

As railways struggled nationwide in the 1950s, redevelopment proposals were sought for Grand Central Station. New York Central Railroad chairman Robert Young argued that not utilising the air rights above the building was like sitting on farm land worth \$100m and never farming it. Young and William Zeckendorf brought in architect IM Pei to design the Hyperboloid, a 108-storey hourglass office tower which would have been the world's tallest, with a transit hub at its base. Young's suicide in 1957 halted any hope for the building









## Dodger Dome - 1955 - Norman Bel Geddes and R Buckminster Fuller

A few years before the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, owner Walter O'Malley tried to replace Ebbets Field with a domed stadium on Atlantic Yards, site of the Barclays Center arena today. O'Malley consulted designer Norman Bel Geddes, who imagined a fixed dome with retractable roof, floored with a precursor of AstroTurf. Buckminster Fuller - of geodesic dome fame - developed plans for a translucent fibreglass structure to seat 55,000. A scheme was hatched to float \$30m of bonds, but the Dodgers eventually moved to LA

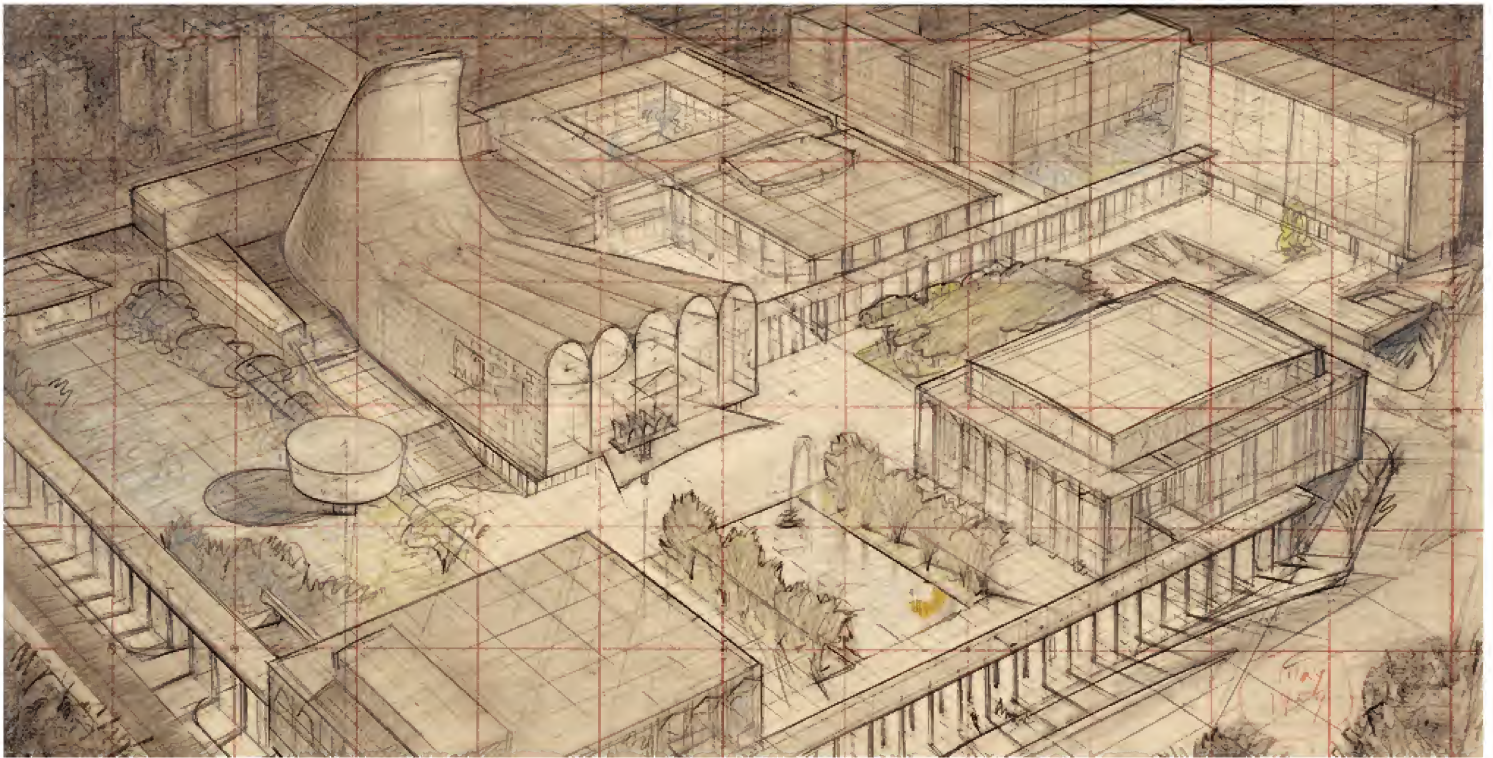


## Metropolitan Opera House - 1955 - Wallace K Harrison

Harrison's first ideas for the Met were fantastical. One of his earliest sketches looked similar to the



Sydney Opera House; another presented a wavelike building on stilts above a reflecting pool. His most absurd version was surely the Met as a gigantic Roman foot, its base resembling a narrow stone ankle, spreading apart until its toes formed the looping curtain walls that today mark the front of the structure. But after almost 50 proposals, project patron John D Rockefeller and the board finally accepted the least visionary of them all



## Ellis Island ‘city of the future’ - 1959 - Frank Lloyd Wright

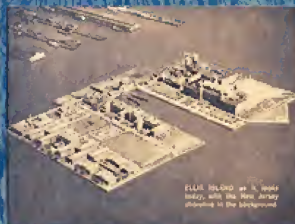
After the immigration centre was decommissioned in 1954 the site was offered to developers. The highest bid proposed a ‘completely self-contained city of the future’ designed by recently deceased Frank Lloyd Wright. It featured a circular podium superimposed on the rectangular island. There were thousands of apartments and a 500-room hotel. Air-conditioned domes would house theatres, hospitals, churches and schools. Cars would be replaced by moving pavements. All proposals were rejected and the island was declared a national monument





## Frank Lloyd Wright's Last Dream

Just before he died, America's most exciting architect designed this "perfect city of tomorrow" (which can be built today)



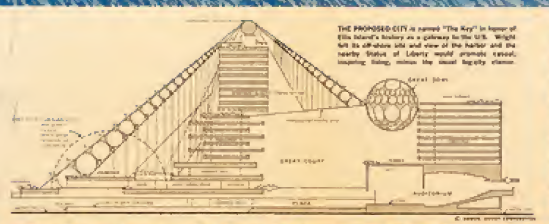
ELIAS WRIGHT as a key to the city, with the New Jersey skyline in the background

A dream outlined by Frank Lloyd Wright for more than 40 years: to build a perfect city, spiraling to nearly 1,000 feet in the air. Before his great visionary death in April 1959, it was the last commission Wright completed, the vision for a new city, built on a small island in New York Harbor. Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor.

Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor. Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor.

Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor. Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor.

Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor. Wright's city, projected above, is designed to serve as a model for the future, a city that will be built on a small island in New York Harbor.



THE PROPOSED CITY is shown "The Key" in lower of this island's history as a gateway to the U.S. Wright set its ultimate life and view of the harbor and the nearby Statue of Liberty would promote travel, tourism, living, making the island highly visible.

## Topics

New York Architecture History

Reuse this content



## New Perfume Promises The Fragrance Of A Kitten's Neck

huffingtonpost.com



anurakpong via Getty Images

If you enjoy the gentle nuzzle from a soft, tiny kitten, we've got good news. Demeter Fragrance Library, a New York-based company that develops fragrances based on everyday scents, has developed a new perfume that will bring memories of a dozen kitten cuddles.

Get ready to spritz yourself with Demeter's "Kitten Fur."

"Now after 15 years of effort, Demeter has captured the olfactory essence of the warmth and comfort of that purrfect spot, just behind kitten's neck," the company wrote on its website.

The scent of "Kitten Fur" is being sold in several Demeter products, including cologne, roll-on

perfume oil, body lotion, shower gel and a diffuser oil, in case you wanted an entire room to smell like one giant kitten.

Prices range from \$6 for a half-ounce of cologne to \$39.95 for four ounces of cologne.

Demeter develops and sells a wide range of scents, including more traditional fragrances such as "Jasmine" and "Sweet Orange," or peculiar ones like "Popcorn," "Earthworm" and "Fuzzy Balls." (The last one, in case you were curious, smells like "the woosh of a freshly opened can of tennis balls.")

But it isn't the first company to attempt to emulate the scent of cat.

Felissimo, a Japanese mail-order company, in 2015 developed a fabric spray that smells like a cat's head, which is supposedly similar to baked bread. The company recently developed a lip gloss that is said to feel like a cat's wet nose.

So what does a kitten's neck smell like?

Demeter's Facebook fans said their cats smell like a number of different things, including honey, baby powder and cinnamon spice bread, and a combination of a "newborn baby, a freshly baked loaf of bread and the scent of home." At least one person suggested "litter dust and cat spit."

Whatever the fragrance ends up smelling like, let's just hope it smells more sweet than foul, and it doesn't trigger cat allergies.

The truth is stranger than fiction. Step into the world of weird news. Learn more

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## No cardboard cut-outs of Trudeau, Canada diplomats told - BBC News bbc.com

---

Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States have been told to stop using life-size cardboard cut-outs of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to promote the country.

The two-dimensional Trudeaus have been spotted at a number of promotional events in the US, most recently at a tourism stand at the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Austin, CBC News reports. But while they seem to be popular with visitors who share photos on social media, the government department Global Affairs Canada is less than impressed.

"We are aware of instances where our missions in the United States had decided to purchase and use these cut-outs," spokesman Michael O'Shaughnessy tells CBC. "The missions have been asked to no longer use these for their events." CBC says the department did not respond to questions about why the instruction was given.

The decision comes after a freedom of information request by the opposition Conservative Party revealed emails sent between embassy and consular staff. They show that the embassy in Washington DC paid for express delivery of a Trudeau cut-out last summer so that it would arrive in time for Canada Day celebrations, The Canadian Press reports.

The Washington embassy's interest was apparently piqued by the presence of a cardboard Trudeau at the consulate in Atlanta. Some staff were concerned that the idea was not very prime ministerial, but the embassy's events production manager said it would be "a hoot" and prove popular on Snapchat. Photos from the day show visitors to the embassy posing for pictures alongside the cut-out.

While some saw it as a bit of fun, the Conservatives didn't miss the opportunity to take a dig at the real prime minister, MP John Brassard telling CBC: "A life-size, two-dimensional cut-out is probably a perfect metaphor for everything that Justin Trudeau represents."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Border guards say no to fire-breathing Robo Dragon on its way to Billings

missoulian.com



Robosaurus



Robosaurus

• By MATT HUDSON mhudson@billingsgazette.com

The Megasaurus Fire Breathing Robot headed for Friday night's No Limits Monster Trucks show at Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark was stopped at the Canadian border.

BILLINGS – In these times of heightened border security, at least one 30-foot-tall robot dragon has been halted from entering Montana.

A routine documentation snafu caused the fire-breathing machine to be held up at the Canadian border early Friday.

The transformer was headed to Billings for Friday night's No Limits Monster Trucks show at Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark. The show will go on without the car-eating Robo Dragon.

"At 1:30 in the morning I get this text, which woke me right plum smooth up," said Ed Beckley, President and CEO of the Texas-based Checkered Flag Promotions.

The man who owns Robo Dragon lives in Canada and was last in the United States in mid-January for a show in Grand Island, Nebraska, Beckley said.



Megazaurus

Buy Now

The Megasaurus Fire Breathing Robot headed for Friday night's No Limits Monster Trucks show at Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark was stopped at the Canadian border.

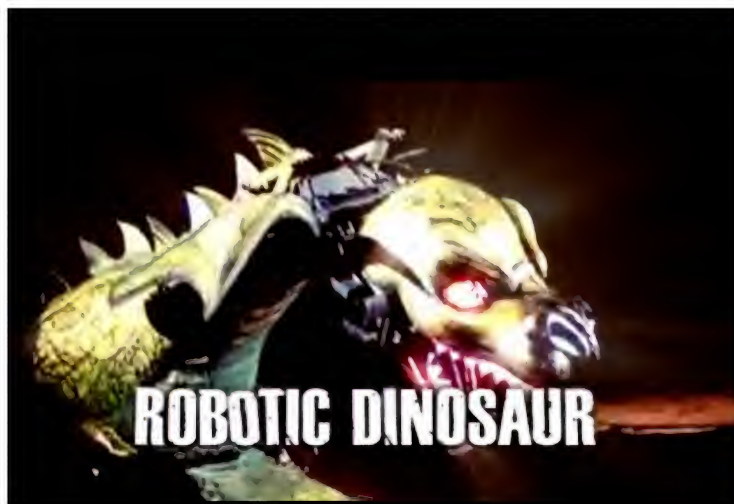
D.M. Troutman, provided

When Beckley reached the robot's owner early Friday morning, he learned that he didn't have all his paperwork to be able to work in the U.S.

"He goes, 'Hell, I'm with the border agent right now going through all this stuff,'" Beckley said.

A spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol said in an email to The Gazette that privacy policies prevent them from discussing specific travelers.

The agency's list of prohibited items, however, does not specifically exclude robotic, car-eating dragons.



*Robo Dragon*

Still from the No Limits Monster Truck Show ad in Billings.

The show will go on as planned, said Beckley, who has been taking his show to Billings since 1986.

"All the monster trucks are there," he said. "All the truck and tractor pulls are there."

**walter12** Feb 18, 2017 3:38pm

Silly rabbits, the Canadian border is not the problem, it all is down at the Mexican border.

© Copyright 2017 Missoulilian, 500 S. Higgins Missoula, MT

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## No, Melania Trump Does Not Want To Wire You \$20 Million

huffingtonpost.com

### #AlternativeEmail.

By Lee Moran

No matter what this ridiculous email says, Melania Trump is not sitting on \$20 million for you — or anybody else — in the White House.

According to the scam message that landed in inboxes like the one below last Wednesday, the first lady is just waiting for you to pay \$180 to the West African Republic of Benin's Federal Ministry of Finance before she's authorized to release "your" funds:

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: 11111Mrs. Melania Trump [REDACTED]  
Date: 22 March 2017 at 13:28  
Subject: Good Day.  
To:

Welcome to the first lady Mrs. Melania Trump Office.

Good Day.

I am Mrs. Melania Trump this is to officially inform you that your overdue payment from West Africa Benin Republic total sum of (\$20,000,000) twenty million US dollars is currently here in my office white house Washington DC and the funds will be delivered to you as soon as you get back to this office and comply with the requirement as needed to deliver your total fund to you as well. Your home address and your cell phone numbers is highly needed to complete this delivering to you as well, Bear in mind that is the only office been in charge of delivering your fund to you due to the regard to my husband Mr.Donald Trump. And you will have to pay the sum of \$180.00 usd to the Federal Ministry of Finance Benin Republic to enable them secure the Approval Document and send it over to you before your funds will be delivered to you .You are advised to comply with the instructions from this office & every information as you will need to contact the Federal Ministry of Finance Benin Republic will be given to you from this office to avoid any kind of mistake,

Thanks

Regards,  
Mrs. Melania Trump  
Text [REDACTED]  
First Lady United State Of America

But apart from its obvious absurdity, there are several red flags worth mentioning — such as Trump's supposed Japan-based email address and California area code telephone number.

It also falsely suggests that Melania Trump is living in Washington, D.C., when she continues to reside at Trump Tower in New York City, and it

doesn't reveal how such a fortune came about.

Replies to the email (which divert via a Yahoo address) and a message left on the number's voicemail (that seemed to divert to another number) are yet to yield answers as to who's behind this "419" scam — which involves targets being promised generous returns if they pay certain fees upfront.

A similar email recently requested \$3 million to help a Nigerian astronaut stranded in space to get back to Earth. The reward? A healthy share of his \$15 million salary. What could be more legit?

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Archbishop in Sicily bans mafia from being godfathers - BBC News

bbc.com

An archbishop in Sicily has moved to reclaim the term "godfather" from the mafia - by banning gangsters from taking the role at baptisms.

Michele Pennisi, a vocal mafia critic, has his diocese in Monreale, near Palermo.

He said he wanted to challenge the idea that crime bosses have a paternal side.

"The mafia has always taken the term godfather from the Church to give its bosses an air of religious respectability," he told AFP.

"Whereas in fact, the two worlds are completely incompatible."

Archbishop Pennisi's diocese includes the notorious village of Corleone, a vendetta-torn enclave made famous by Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather*.

The cleric last made headlines in February by condemning a Corleone priest's decision to let the son of an infamous mobster, Toto Riina, become his niece's godfather.

The row gave rise to his latest decree, which bans anyone convicted of "dishonorable crimes" from acting as a godparent.

Archbishop Pennisi admits that the mafia culture of "omerta" - the law of silence - will make the ruling harder to enforce.

"If someone has not been convicted we cannot judge people on rumours, without proof," he said.

He added that the path to reformation is open for mobsters, as for others.

"If one of them admits to having done wrong, asks to be pardoned for the bad they have done - in that case we can discuss a path of conversion," he said.

The archbishop had faced death threats in 2008 after he refused to allow Crocefisso Emanuello, the head of a mafia family, a religious funeral.

He was granted police protection as a result.

Pope Francis took a stand against organised crime in 2014 by excommunicating all mafiosi - meaning they are banished in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church.

"Those who in their lives follow this path of evil, as mafiosi do, are not in communion with God," he said.

---

*Image copyright Getty Images*

## Now you can have a REAL Beauty and the Beast-style everlasting rose

10:07 EST, 11 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

- **The incredible blooms live for three years without needing sunlight or water**
- **If they stay underneath a clear glass dome, they could even live for ever**
- **A single stem rose in a glass dome - available in 18 colours - starts from £225**

By Hannah Al-Othman For MailOnline

Beauty and the Beast fans can now get their hands on an everlasting rose - just like in the film.

The incredible blooms can live as long as three years without needing sunlight or water - and if they stay underneath a clear glass dome, they could even live for ever.

The flowers come in nearly 30 different colours, and the most popular style is the Bella Rose, inspired by Belle, the lead character played by Emma Watson in the hit film.



Beauty and the Beast fans can now get their hands on an everlasting rose

The enchanted rose, seen here in its glass case, became synonymous with the 1991 Disney film

Emma Watson plays Belle in the new Beauty and the Beast live action version of the classic

The enchanted rose, which became synonymous with the 1991 Disney version of the story, is given to a prince by an old woman who begs him for food. When he turns down her request, the woman reveals herself to be a beautiful enchantress and turns him into a beast.

The enchantress left him the rose, promising him that it would bloom until his twenty-first year, and warning him that he had until then to learn to love or he would remain a beast forever.

The beast keeps the rose in a glass dome - just like the one that is now up for sale from Forever Rose London.

The company started in the UK, but has now grown in popularity in the Middle East, where the roses sell for hundreds of pounds.

The flowers come in nearly 30 different colours, and the most popular style is the Bella Rose

The company started in the UK, but has now grown in popularity in the Middle East

A single stem Bella rose in a glass dome - available in 18 colours - starts from £225.

According to the brand, the roses are 'one hundred per cent natural' and are 'derived from the mineral rich volcanic soils of Ecuador in South America.'



The company claims that its roses 'last for many years without water or sunlight' and 'set

themselves apart with their uniquely strong petals which grow up to ten times thicker and five times larger than any other blooms available on the market.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Oakura chainsaw artist carves up reminder to 'hang loose'

stuff.co.nz



GRANT MATTHEW/Fairfax NZ Albert 'Alby' James has carved a huge "hang loose" hand with his chainsaw. It now sits on his driveway at the entrance to his house.

As if cruising along Taranaki's Surf Highway 45 wasn't enough to rid your day of any stresses, when Albert "Alby" James pulls into his Oakura driveway he is met with a giant reminder to chill.

Using a chainsaw, the 29-year-old recently carved the hulking, wooden sculpture from a gumtree stump found on his property.

The grounding prompt stands tall at six foot, three inches, weighs nearly one tonne and stretches out its pinky and thumb in a "hang loose" salute

to passersby.



GRANT MATTHEW/Fairfax NZ The 'shaka' is a common hand gesture within the surfing culture and has a lot of different meanings.

He has titled it *Shaka*, and says it represents enjoying life and letting go of all and any of life's worries.

"Hanging loose is all about relaxing and seeing the brighter side of your life," says James, who for about eight years has run his own business, Body Rehab, which helps people with pain and body movement as well as stress and emotional management.

"Seeing how much stress there is in our society is insane," he says.

"All this inspired me to create the sculpture."

The 'shaka' hand sign carries a lot of different meanings but, originating from Hawaii, is often used in the surfing culture and usually interpreted as a greeting or an expression of thanks.

James is fairly new to the art of carving, having only taken up chainsaw carving about a year



GRANT MATTHEW/Fairfax NZ The wooden hand stands at about six foot, three inches and weighs about one tonne.

ago. He says the hand took him about 50 hours to create and was the first of the only two sculptures he has created thus far.

"I'd been wanting to do a stone carving for a long time and then I stumbled across this massive stump out the back of the property," he says.

Teaching himself, he says it was a process he didn't rush, taking his time to visualise each line and angle he needed to cut.

The carving began in his backyard and when it came time to move it was so solid he had to get in a crane to lift it.

James said the art process always kicked off with making sure he had the right garbs on.

"The old chainsaws are pretty dangerous, they can do serious damage quickly - it can go zero to a hundred real quick. I always made sure that I was cutting with safety in mind incase of kick back."

Having the right tools and making sure they are up to par is also important. James works with both a chainsaw and a pruning saw for finer detail.

"I've got a big old Stihl with a 36" bar on it, she's solid as."

He says the key was visualisation and to rub the sculpture with linseed oil when finished to help preserve the wood.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Towering flames at Imperial Oil in Sarnia not a safety concern, says company

CBC News  
2017/02/24

cbc.ca

**Company spokesperson said the flames were just the product of "visible flaring" to relieve gases**



Towering flames that seemed to surround Imperial Oil's complex Thursday evening in Sarnia were "not normal," according to the city's fire chief.

Several videos showing the glowing spits of fire — which lit up the night sky and were visible from Port Huron — were posted to social media.

"They had an excessive discharge to their flare," said Sarnia Fire and Rescue Services chief John Kingyens. "It was not a normal occurrence."

Company spokesperson, Jon Harding, said the flames were just the product of "visible flaring" to relieve gases that needed to be burned off before an "internal issue" could be fixed.

"I can't dispute what the photo looks like," he said, adding that low cloud cover can sometimes make flames look more dramatic than they really are. "It looks like there's also light from the flares reflecting off the steam."

The chief agreed the fire appears much larger in the videos than it was in reality.

"It looks like the whole refinery is burning when it's not," he said.

### Lack of information an issue

Kingyens said he's still in the dark about the cause of the flaring, whether it be human error, an operational error, maintenance or an equipment failure. All he knows is the plant was experiencing a "massive shut down" when their product went up in smoke.

"We had no information to offer anybody and we received a lot of requests," he said. "Our own credibility is at stake when we don't have an answer for the public."

The three flares began burning around 6:20 p.m. and the site's emergency sirens were activated to alert staff, according to a media release.

"Shortly after responding to the operating issue, Imperial fire response personnel assisted in extinguishing a grass fire on public property to the south of Imperial's site," the statement reads.



No injuries were reported during the flaring and Environment Canada has been notified, according to Harding.

The company also notified city officials and members of the public shortly after flaring began and air quality assessments showed no "elevated readings" from the burning, he added.

"We operate our flares safely," said Harding.



CBC

Radio-Canada

©2017 CBC/Radio-Canada. All rights reserved

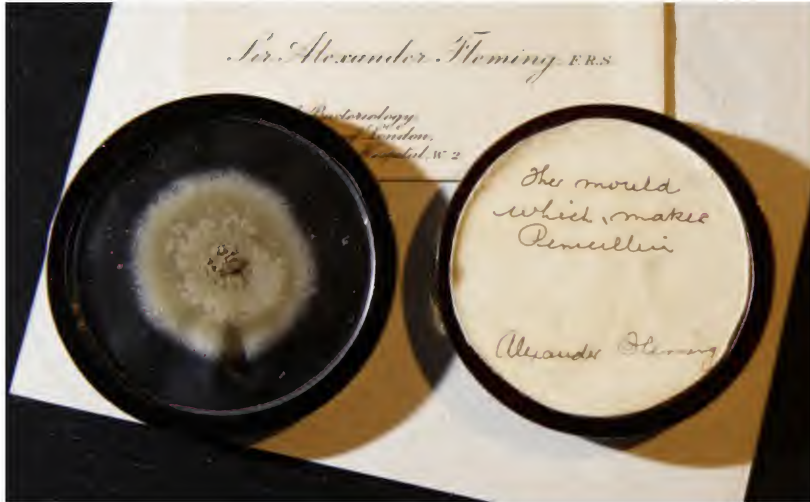
Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Old mold from penicillin discoverer auctioned for \$14,617

**AP** MARIA CHENG

Associated Press March 1, 2017



In this photo taken on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, a capsule of original penicillin mold from which Alexander Fleming made the drug known as penicillin on view at Bonham's auction house in London. The international auction house Bonham's says it has sold a small, patchy disc of mold for \$14,597. The off-white, nearly 90-year-old swatch of microbes has a rather extraordinary history: it was first created by Alexander Fleming to make penicillin, a revolutionary discovery that brought the world its first antibiotic.

Bonham's sold the mold Wednesday, March 1 during an auction in London. The germs are preserved in a glass case and feature an inscription by Fleming on the back, identifying it as "the mould that first made penicillin." (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

LONDON (AP) — How much is an old, dried out piece of mold worth? Apparently more than \$14,600 if it was created by the doctor who discovered penicillin.

The nearly 90-year-old swatch of mold has a rather extraordinary history: It came from the laboratory of Dr. Alexander Fleming whose revolutionary discovery brought the world its first antibiotic, credited with saving millions of lives worldwide.

The patchy bit of mold from his niece's collection was auctioned in London on Wednesday for 11,875 pounds (\$14,617). The buyer was not identified.

The mold is preserved in a round glass case and features an inscription by Fleming on the back, describing it as "the mould that first made penicillin."

That, however, may be a stretch. The Scottish-born doctor likely made at least dozens of such mold mementos, derived from his original sample of the fungus.

Fleming "sent these samples out to dignitaries and to people in the scientific world, almost as a kind of holy relic," said Matthew Haley, director of books and manuscripts at the auction house Bonham's.

He noted that other bits of mold were given to Pope Pius XII, Winston Churchill and Marlene Dietrich, perhaps in an effort to cement Fleming's legacy as the discoverer of penicillin in 1928.

Before the discovery, infections like pneumonia and rheumatic fever were near death-sentences.

"When it first became available, penicillin was called a miracle drug," said Kevin Brown, archivist at the Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum. "Its discovery began a new, life-saving era in medicine."

In some ways, the discovery was accidental. Fleming found mold growing in an experiment when he returned to his cramped lab after a stay at his country house. One petri dish was full of bacteria except for an area where mold was growing. He later realized the mold — a rare strain of penicillin — was killing off the bacteria around it.

"Fleming noticed something that other people would have missed and saw the potential of penicillin to treat patients," said Brown.

Scientists at Oxford University further developed penicillin, and production was ramped up so that enough of the antibiotic would be available for the Allied invasion on D-Day in 1944. Fleming and Oxford scientists Ernst Boris Chain and Howard Walter Florey were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1945.

Brown noted that not everybody was thrilled to receive the preserved mold medallions and that some got multiple copies, including Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip.

"Every time he met Fleming, he got another one of these things," Brown said.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## World's oldest skier, 106, credits high quality liquor for his longevity metro.co.uk

Sunday 12 Mar 2017 11:39 am



The grandfather is still skiing (Picture: CEN)

A grandfather who is 106 is still skiing in America and credits his longevity to only drinking the best-quality booze.

The man now claims to be the oldest active skier in the world.

Lou Batori started tackling the winter sport 96 years ago in Hungary and he's still conquering the mountains in his adopted home in America.

After starting aged 10 he now lives in Glen Arbor,

Michigan.

Lou says: 'Waiting to be carted away is a stupid waste of life.'



Batori has been skiing for 96 years and has his own reserved spot in his nearest slopes (Picture: CEN)

'You can replace anything – your shoes, your house, your belongings. But you cannot replace time so make the best of it.'

'Do everything within reason and sensibility.'

The daredevil grandfather, whose birth name Lajos, has skied every winter since 1920.

He moved to America to study in 1936 and used a ski lift for the first time in 1940.

Lou has kept on skiing ever since and has won several Nastar ski competitions, the world's largest known recreational ski race program, even taking part in them at the age of 100.

106 year old skiing enthusiast hits the slopes



He has become a celebrity in his home town, where he has been given a lifetime pass to the ski slope and has a reserved parking spot – the one closest to the ski lift.

Other skiers regularly stop and watch Lou in action at the Crystal Mountain Resort near his home.

Lou added: 'I happen to like to play in the snow, meaning downhill skiing.

'I first started skiing when I was about ten, and I was still living in Hungary. From then on, it was normal procedure to ski every winter.'

Lou met his wife Judith in New York and the couple were together for almost 50 years until her death in August.

They lived together in Glen Arbor and went on motorbike trips together across the USA.

Lou says the 'three ingredients' for becoming a centenarian are: 'A good wife, only drinking the best-quality liquor and picking your parents carefully.'

The former aviation engineer clearly has good genes, his father Oscar, lived until he was 90.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## One-legged woman cleared of slaying can sue Kentucky trooper

USA Today Network Andrew Wolfson, The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

usatoday.com



636262212789987215-  
susanjeandking.jpg

Susan Jean King (Photo: Courier-Journal)

LOUISVILLE — A woman who was exonerated for a homicide after spending more than six years behind bars can sue the Kentucky State Police detective she says framed her.

The U.S Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Monday reinstated a lawsuit alleging malicious prosecution filed by Susan Jean King against Lt. Todd Harwood.

King alleges that Harwood, then a sergeant, lied before a grand jury that indicted her on a murder charge in the death of Kyle Breeden by falsely testifying that it was impossible to determine if the bullets found in King's floor and the ones found in Breeden's skull were a match. In fact, Judge Danny Boggs of Louisville wrote for a three-judge appellate panel, a state police forensic examiner had told Harwood the bullets didn't match.

Boggs also noted that Harwood omitted from his testimony that King had only one leg, which would have undercut his claim that she dragged Breeden from her

home and threw him off a bridge.

"We're very pleased with the decision," Thomas Clay, a lawyer for King, said. "It returns Susan Jean King's case to court, where hopefully a jury will agree with us that the actions by Kentucky State Police were truly outrageous."

Harwood referred questions to KSP Lt. Michael Webb, who said he could not comment Monday.

The appeals court reversed U.S. District Judge Greg Stivers, who threw out King's suit against Harwood and other defendants on the grounds that police had probable cause for her arrest and that the suit was filed too late.

"... Hopefully a jury will agree with us that the actions by Kentucky State Police were truly outrageous."

Thomas Clay, lawyer for Susan Jean King

The panel did affirm the dismissal of counts that named the state police and three of Harwood's supervisors.

*The Courier-Journal* previously reported that after Breeden's body was found in 1998 in the Kentucky River, his murder went unsolved for eight years, despite an investigation by six KSP detectives.

But when Harwood was assigned it as a cold case in 2006, it took him only 21 days to say he had solved it and that King was the culprit.

Facing 20 years to life if she went to trial and was found guilty, King, while maintaining her innocence, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree manslaughter and accepted a 10-year sentence.

The Kentucky Innocence Project already had been working on the case for several years when on May 4, 2012, a serial murderer named Richard Jarrell confessed to a Louisville Metro Police detective that he had in fact killed Breeden.

After Harwood initially declined to interview Jarrell, then allegedly intimidated him into recanting his confession, Louisville Detective Barron Morgan reported the confession to the Innocence Project after getting permission from a supervisor.

The newspaper reported that then-state Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer complained to Louisville police Chief Steve Conrad, a longtime friend, that Morgan was meddling in a state police case, and Conrad subsequently transferred him to a graveyard shift as a patrol officer.



Conrad claimed the move was part of a broad reorganization, but Morgan said he was demoted as punishment, and he won \$450,000 from the city to settle his whistleblower lawsuit.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals vacated King's conviction after she had been released from prison on a 10-year sentence, calling it an "egregious violation" of justice, and prosecutors in Spencer County decided not to retry her.

Besides the homicide charge, Harwood also got King indicted for tampering with physical evidence, alleging in part that she had cleaned the floor of her kitchen, which he claimed was the crime scene.

But Boggs noted for the court that the KSP lab found no traces of cleaning solvent on the floor.

Harwood also alleged King had destroyed evidence by later tearing out the floor, when he knew she had it replaced because of flood damage, the *Courier-Journal* reported.

Harwood, who received a KSP "Commissioner's Commendation" in 2009 for his "outstanding achievement in solving Breeden's murder," is still on the force. He is now a lieutenant and paid \$70,346 a year.

Brewer retired last year.

*Follow Andrew Wolfson on Twitter: @adwolfson*

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## There's no sharia law in Dearborn — only 'Shawarma Law'

Ann Zaniewski , Detroit Free Press

freep.com

Zahra Ayoub wants to shout it from the rooftops — the city of Dearborn is not under sharia law.

Rather, she likes to joke that it's under Shawarma Law, a reference to the delicious marinated, roasted meat pita that's popular in Middle Eastern cuisine.

Now, she's organizing Shawarma Law dinners around her hometown. The next one is coming up at 4 p.m. Saturday at the La Pita restaurant on Michigan Avenue.

"Dearborn is a beautiful city where you can do a lot of things," she said. "I want to spread the word that there's no reason to fear coming to Dearborn."

### Read more:

Ayoub, 42, first held up a sign joking that Dearborn was under shawarma law a few years ago during a visit by controversial anti-Muslim pastor Terry Jones to Dearborn.

In 2013, the National Report website published a satirical article that said the city had enacted sharia law, or Islamic religious law. The city swiftly debunked the article, but some people took it seriously and still believe Islamic law rules Dearborn.

"Dearborn, Michigan, yes, we're Muslim here," Ayoub said. "But I've been living in the city for 25 years. I have never seen somebody get stoned to death. ... I have never seen a woman get beat up for not being covered.

"I love going to heavy metal concerts. I love going to baseball games. I don't drink or smoke, but there are bars in Dearborn. There are churches in Dearborn. There is no sharia law."

Ayoub saw a YouTube video circulating on social media earlier this year that again perpetuated the false sharia law rumor. In response, she wrote a posting on the Forward Action Michigan Facebook page, saying she is proud to live in Dearborn. She also repeated the "shawarma law" joke.



(Photo: Sylvia Rector, Detroit Free Press)

The post garnered more than 1,000 likes and 800 comments.

Someone suggested she make T-shirts. Another person volunteered to make them. The shirts say, "I follow shawarma law," over the image of a shawarma pita. Ayoub said they sell for \$25, with proceeds going to the ACLU of Michigan.

The first shawarma law dinner in February drew 35 people, mostly women, to Al Ameer restaurant.

"When a vegetarian asked about vegetarian options, she was told there would be a Falafal Amendment," Ayoub said in an e-mail.

She said she hopes the dinners become a monthly event.

Contact Ann Zaniewski: 313-222-6594 or [azaniewski@freepress.com](mailto:azaniewski@freepress.com). Follow her on Twitter @AnnZaniewski.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Parrots high on drugs annoy farmers by plundering poppy fields to feed addiction

By Sanjay Pandey Stephen Jones 12:12, 22 MAR 2017 Updated 18:09, 22 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Parrots flying high on drugs are annoying farmers by plundering their poppy fields to feed their opium addiction.

The drug-addicted birds sit perched in wait until the morphine-rich area is exposed by workers slitting open the flowers' pods to help them ripen.

The parrots then swoop down in silence into the opium fields - having learned not to squawk - and frantically nibble off the stalks below the pod before they are spotted.

Video shows them retreating to high branches where they gorge on the plants leaving them sleeping for hours - and even falling to their death.

This phenomenon was first reported in 2015, but this year it has spread across to other regions for the first time.

Farmers now claim they are getting warnings from the Government's narcotics department - which controls opium farming - over their reduced yields.

Sobharam Rathod, an opium farmer from Neemach, India, estimates parrots are stealing around ten per cent of his crop and he has been given a warning.

He said: "Usually, the parrots would make sound when in a group. But these birds have become so smart that they don't make any noise when they swoop on the fields.

"The birds start chirping when they fly away with opium pods.

"We have tried every trick possible to keep the birds at bay but these addicts keep coming back even at the risk of their life.

"Like we keep an eye on them, but they also keep an eye on us.

"The moment you lower your guard the army of parrots silently swoop onto your field and take away the bulbs."

In 2015 drug raiding parrots were reported in Chittorgarh in the state of Rajasthan.

But this year they have been found making a huge dent in crops 40 miles away in Neemach in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

According to farmers, the numbers of birds raiding their fields are increasing with every passing year.

Farmers are supposed to hand over a pre-agreed quantity of produce to the state, which controls opium farming.

The birds hit between March and April when the seeds are cut by farmers, exposing the latex which contains morphine, which is processed chemically to produce heroin.

According to farmers, drugged birds have become easy target for their predators thanks to their dopey state.

Farmers have tried bursting firecrackers, beating tin drums and hurling stones to keep the birds away - but to no avail.

Another farmer in Neemach added: "It is difficult to control these parrots.

"We have to spend hours in our fields to shoo them away."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Oregon hotels unapologetic, silent about widespread eclipse cancellations

By Jamie Hale | The Oregonian/OregonLive | Follow on Twitter on April 03, 2017 at 5:00 AM, updated April 03, 2017 at 7:19 PM

oregonlive.com

There may have been some point, between late fall and early winter, when hotels in Oregon realized they could make some serious money on the 2017 solar eclipse.

At that point some hotels began canceling existing reservations, according to some travelers, requesting hundreds of dollars more for the rooms they already booked. Since those complaints have gone public, managers of most of the accused hotels have been silent or else unapologetic on the matter, leaving unresolved conflict as the eclipse draws nearer.

There have been more than a dozen consumer complaints made against Oregon hotels in recent months, filed with the Oregon Department of Justice and posted in online forums, like travel website TripAdvisor. All claim to have booked rooms far in advance for the weekend of the eclipse, only to find their reservations cancelled, and the price for their rooms raised dramatically.

The Department of Justice is looking into the 10 complaints it's received, to see if any of the hotels have violated the Unlawful Trade Practices Act, which prohibits false advertising and deceptive marketing. If a hotel advertised a particular rate at which a consumer booked a room, then changed the terms, that could be considered a violation of the law, department spokeswoman Ellen Klem said.

"A hotel can charge whatever it likes," she said. "It just can't be deceptive in the advertising or the marketing."

It's rare that hotels are accused, she said, and rarer that they're fined. Each violation of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act can result in a fine of \$25,000, though the law encourages negotiation over court settlements. But even if hotels have to pay those fines in full, they still could end up making a killing on the eclipse.

The path of the 2017 total solar eclipse across Oregon.

### 'Everybody is doing it'

In all, at least nine hotels stand accused of cancelling reservations, from Lincoln City out to Baker City. Most complaints share a similar story: The traveler books a room far in advance for the eclipse at a regular rate, the hotel cancels the reservation near the end of 2016 and says the rate for the room has doubled, tripled or increased to as much as \$1,000 per night.

It's not unusual for hotels to change their rates for special events, but the consumers who have complained say they feel punished for planning early, before those rates went up for the eclipse. Many hotels are blaming a glitch in their computer reservation systems, which either didn't update with the new rates, or didn't consider reservations made on third-party booking websites, like Expedia or Hotels.com. Others, however, are offering alternate explanations, or are declining to explain themselves at all.

Two complaints posted on TripAdvisor are aimed at the Stafford Inn in Prineville, both from people who were told that their reservations were canceled because of "new ownership" or "rebranding."



After cancelling existing reservations for \$160 to \$170 per night, the hotel wanted \$600 to \$635 per night instead, according to the online complaints.

Stafford Inn manager Laurie Romine declined to explain their side of the story.

"The very same thing is going on all over the place," she said.

What very same thing?

"I'm not going to talk to you about it."

When KGW reporters showed up at another hotel that was the subject of multiple complaints, the Liberty Inn in Lincoln City, an employee told them, "everybody is doing it."

The Oregonian/OregonLive contacted nine accused hotels, and got comments from managers at four of them. The Liberty Inn, The Grand Hotel in Salem and the Inn at Otter Crest in Otter Rock did not respond to requests for comment.

An employee who answered the phone at the America's Best Inn in Lincoln City said she knew about the complaints, but hung up abruptly after saying the owner of the hotel was pulling into the parking lot.

At the Super 8 in Baker City, a woman who identified herself as the manager blamed the cancellation on a "system upgrade," and declined to comment further until she received the Department of Justice complaint directly.

"The very same thing is going on all over the place."

A woman who answered the phone at the R.R. Thompson House, a bed and breakfast in Carlton, declined to give her name, and said the complaint was a misunderstanding. She said the business didn't raise any rates, but asked for guests to book two additional nights to comply with the B&B's terms for weekends and special events - terms she said she didn't think to update more than 10 months in advance of the eclipse.

A woman who identified herself as the front desk manager at the Quality Suites in Keizer, the source of three complaints to the Department of Justice, also declined to give her name, but said that the cancellations there stemmed from a "system error" involving overbooking, and nothing else.

"It's just tough when you deal with anything going through a computer system," she said. "When a glitch happens in the system, we're just the ones that have to pass on the information."

A similar malfunction was blamed for at least one of the four reported cancellations at the Liberty Inn. Carolyn Westerback had booked two rooms there for the eclipse back in August, using Expedia to make the reservation. She had a confirmation number, so she felt confident, but when she called the front desk in March to check in on her reservation, a hotel employee said it didn't exist.

She called Expedia, but a customer service representative told her it was cancelled due to a "pricing upload error," and that they didn't have any solutions. As of the end of March, the booking website is still "actively investigating" the case, according to a company spokesperson. Westerback has since found another place to stay, but she's still upset at how things unfolded.

"I don't care what the hotels charge, I just want them to do it honestly, and not to cancel your reservation," she said. "It's a short-sighted business strategy."

Chad Hardy, manager of Sailor Jack's Oceanfront Inn in Lincoln City, is also pointing a finger at Expedia. He said three reservations came in for the eclipse 16 months in advance - about six months earlier than the hotel usually allows. He said he honored the reservations at the price they were booked, \$99 per night, but is looking into Expedia's role in the mix-up.

"I have no idea how that happened," Hardy said. "They shouldn't have been able to book a room at all - period."

## 7 things you need to know about Oregon's 2017 solar eclipse

We're exactly one year out from the total solar eclipse that will cross Oregon in 2017 -- here's what you need to know to get ready.

### Making a buck

It's not a stretch to guess that local hotels want to capitalize on the coming eclipse, even at the expense of existing reservations. It's a story line that accusers have swiftly latched onto, but does it have merit?

One Oregon hotel owner says it does - though he's quick to condemn the hotels that might have done it.

Court Friday owns the Inn at Cross Keys Station in Madras, as well as four other hotels around the state. He booked every room in his Madras hotel more than three years ago for the 2017 eclipse, after travel agency Continental Capers called up to strike a deal. He had no idea how popular the eclipse would become, he said, so he sold the rooms at a reasonable rate: \$165 to \$200 a night.

"We're probably going to leave a lot of money on the table," Friday said. "We're still going to do well, but I would say that's pretty jabbing."

But even with a signed contract, and even though Continental Capers paid 20 percent in advance, Friday said he could *still* break the reservations and re-book the rooms at a much higher rate, making up to \$72,000 per night. He won't do that because he honors the agreement over potential profit, he said, but that kind of action wouldn't be out of the ordinary, and might even be within his rights as an Oregon business owner.

The Department of Justice declined to comment on the legality of specific tactics, citing the rarity of this kind of situation, and the department's case-by-case approach. And if the problem is as widespread as it appears to be, if indeed "everybody is doing it," it would make enforcement much more difficult.

"It does appear that we are in this situation to be these enforcers, and we are, but we can't sue the industry, we can't sue every hotel," Klem said.

That might mean the complaints will just boil down to a hard lesson for Oregon travelers: When it comes to hotel reservations, a confirmation number means squat.

--Jamie Hale | [jhale@oregonian.com](mailto:jhale@oregonian.com) | [@HaleJamesB](https://twitter.com/HaleJamesB)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Wild panda eats a goat in rural Sichuan before disappearing back into the wilderness

shanghaiist.com

by Alex Linder in News on Feb 28, 2017 10:10 pm



panda\_eats\_goat.jpg

WARNING: A wild, goat-eating giant panda is on the loose in the backwoods of Sichuan province.



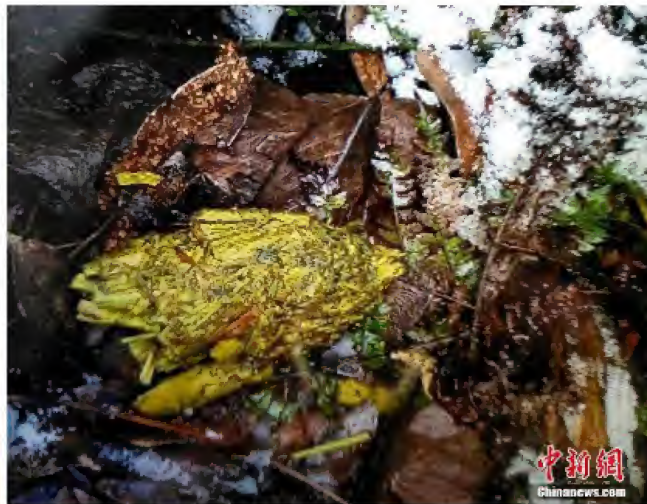
panda\_eats\_goat2.jpg

Last Wednesday, residents of Muping village outside of Leshan spotted a wild panda wandering around near town for 20 minutes. Before disappearing back into wilderness, the panda apparently

attacked a villager's goat, leaving behind only bloody fur, skin and bones.



panda\_eats\_goat4.jpg



panda\_eats\_goat3.jpg

The local forestry bureau responded, collecting excrement samples and confirming that the goat-eater had now returned back to its mountainous habitat. They failed to say whether they think it will return to kill again.

At the end of 2014, China had an estimated 1,864 giant pandas living in the wild, an increase from around 1,100 in 2000, which got them taken off the endangered

species list.

Though giant pandas are primarily vegetarians, they still retain the ursine teeth of their omnivorous evolutionary ancestors, and will occasionally make use of them.

Let's just hope they never acquire a taste for human flesh.

© 2003-2017 Gothamist LLC. All rights reserved. Terms of Use & Privacy Policy.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## The eerie abandoned British train station in a Brazilian jungle

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

**End of the line: The eerie derelict British railway station that lies abandoned in the middle of a Brazilian jungle**

.com

• **Paranapiacaba is a village in the Brazilian jungle that's home to the ruins of a British railway station**

- **In 1867 the village was the operation HQ of the English-owned Sao Paulo Railway and had 4,000 residents**
- **Technology advancements rendered it obsolete and it was bought out by the Brazilian government in the 40s**

By Naomi Leach For Mailonline

Published: 09:17 EST, 14 February 2017 | Updated: 09:21 EST, 14 February 2017

A South American jungle may be the last place you would expect to see a distinctly British train station - complete with a Big Ben style clock tower.

However, this abandoned site is what greets you in the small municipality of Paranapiacaba outside Sao Paulo, Brazil.

And what makes the derelict site even eerier is the near-constant mist shrouding Paranapiacaba, due to its high-altitude location among the trees.



A derelict carriage sits at the old headquarters for the now defunct Sao Paulo Railway, a British-owned train shuttle company deep in the misty jungle of Brazil

In 1867 the village was the operation headquarters of the English-owned Sao Paulo Railway, but now lies mostly abandoned with a much-reduced population

During the 19th century the village was booming thanks to a funicular railway built by British engineers to transport people and coffee from Sao

Paulo to the port of Santos

What makes the derelict station even eerier is the near-constant mist shrouding Paranapiacaba, due to its high-altitude location among the trees

In 1867 the village was the operation headquarters of the English-owned Sao Paulo Railway, but now lies mostly abandoned with a much-reduced population.

- The romance of steam is back: Traditional locomotive hauls a... A mother revisits Walt Disney World 25 years after her first... Plain sailing! A 'cruise virgin' reluctantly boards a ship... 'My iPhone was FLOATING': Inside a passenger aircraft during... With its sultry sunsets and





irresistible coastline the... Coming to a galaxy not that far away: Disney finally...

An old Armstrong-Whitworth Diesel-Electric train now rots on its original rails.

And former storehouses that were used as training centres for local villagers stand empty and in ruins.

Abandoned: A South American jungle may be the last place you would expect to see a distinctly British train station - complete with a



Big Ben



style clock tower

Eerie: An old Armstrong-Whitworth Diesel-Electric train now rots on its original rails

Derelict: Former storehouses that were used as training centres for local villagers stand empty and in ruins

The company's greatest technological achievement was the funicular: a train shuttle built

specifically for the steep mountain incline through the jungle

The construction of this zig-zag railway line through hilly terrain was considered a feat by the British engineers working there at the time

But technology advancements rendered the railway obsolete and original carriages were left to rot on the tracks

At its peak the town housed 4,000 mostly British workers and their families.





The Sao Paulo railway carried both people and coffee between the interior of Sao Paulo and the port of Santos.

The company's greatest technological achievement was the funicular: a train shuttle built specifically for the steep mountain incline through the jungle.

At its peak, the village in the Brazilian jungle housed 4,000 mostly British workers and their families



The



village prospered for 30 years until automated machinery replaced the funicular, which was labour-intensive

After the decline of Paranapiacaba had begun, the company was bought out by the Brazilian government in the 1940s

Reclaimed by nature: Plants flourish inside the crumbling ruins of the former village and the empty train carriages

The construction of this zig-zag railway line through hilly terrain was considered a feat by

the British engineers working there at the time.

The village prospered for 30 years until automated machinery replaced the funicular, which was labour-intensive.

That marked a decline and the company was bought out by the Brazilian government in the 1940s.

A British clock tower stands over the eerie site, which is surrounded by thick jungle vegetation

Frozen in time: The last steam train was deactivated in 1982 and several carriages (right) and platforms (left) lie derelict





A



playground for animals: A white cat sits on one of the disused platforms, its clean fur standing out against the decay

Haunting: Standing as a testament to the once bustling station at the heart of the village, this empty train carriage rusts on the end of the train line

Paranapiacaba, which means 'where you will find the sea' in Tupi, has been well-preserved and the government of Brazil gave the village historic status

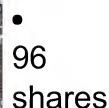
The Funicular de Paranapiacaba railway museum was established in 1970 and is now one of the biggest tourist attractions in the district

The last steam train was deactivated in 1982.

Paranapiacaba, which means 'where you will find the sea' in Tupi, has been well-preserved and the government of Brazil gave the village historic status.

The Funicular de Paranapiacaba railway museum was established in 1970 and is now one of the biggest tourist attractions in the district.





The Armstrong Whitworth diesel electric is repeated...

by Tkuk46



## Comments 31



The comments below have not been moderated.

Hawkeye01, Shropshire,  
United Kingdom, 6 days  
ago

This could be southern rail in not too distant future !

Hawkeye01, Shropshire,

United Kingdom, 6 days ago

## Bloody drivers still on strike !

BrexitBoyAndProud, UKIP, United Kingdom, 6 days ago

Disgusting waste

James Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany, 1 week ago

Looks like another successful Southern Rail investment.





HomersDad, Cheshire, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

DM - please enlighten us as to how a railway station in Brazil can be referred to as a "British railway station"? Have you ever considered employing journalists who have at least a basic grasp of the English language?

James Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany, 1 week ago

Or geography!



bookert, Winchester, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

Southern region on one of it's better days!

Abiogenesis, High Wycombe, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

Google maps & Wikipedia deliver a much better assessment of Paranapiacaba & the São Paulo Railway. The Sistema Cremalheira-Aderência - the Rack-and-adhesion railway using Hitachi electric locomotives.



Jakes a snake, Sultans palace, Brunei, 1 week ago

Why the need to photoshop this? see pictures 21 and 9, what is the point?

webpa, Dallas, United States, 1 week ago

Why do you assume anything you don't understand has been "photoshopped"?

Phi1ip, England, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

LOL.... The two photos have been taken a split second apart as can be ascertained by the express in the background having only travelled a few yards, yet within that fraction of a second two entire

railway carriages have disappeared from the old wrecker.

Steve Hatton, Adelaide, Australia, 1 week ago

Abandoned British railway station in Brazil really I didnt know the network spread that far ! Try employing people with a brain who can write an intelligible headline and story before letting it go live on the site !

The Sapper, Osnabruck, Germany, 1 week ago

Photoshopped or what ? What a croc of you know what

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

We are no longer accepting comments on this article.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## IN PICS: The story of the 'ghost Metro stations' of Paris

thelocal.fr



Photo: Vincent Desjardins/Flickr

The Local

18 October 2016

15:55 CEST+02:00

Thought you knew the Paris Metro map off by heart? There are a few stations you have never discovered, but perhaps one day will.

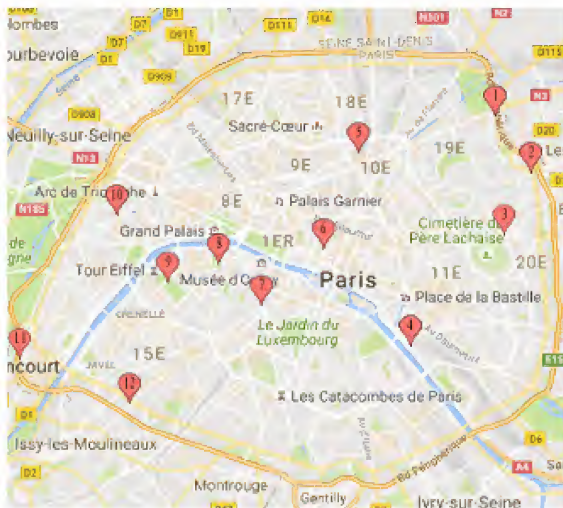
After a few months in Paris, you might think that you know the Metro map like the back of your hand.

But over time a number of stations have been closed and forgotten about. They have become known as the Ghost

Stations, or *Stations Fantômes*, and lie abandoned in the tunnels under the city.

The *when* and *why* is a fascinating story. Some stations have been replaced by newer ones, whilst others never actually opened. Most of the *stations fantômes* however were closed at the start of the Second World War and have remained untouched ever since.

### Ghost Metro stations of Paris



1. Haxo
2. P. des Lilas Cinéma
3. Martin Nadaud
4. Arsenal
5. Gare du Nord UFSRT
6. Les Halles
7. Croix Rouge
8. Invalides
9. Champ-de-Mars
10. Victor Hugo
11. Porte Molitor
12. P. de Versailles

Visiting them alone isn't recommended and is illegal, but some are open to the public for the *Journées du Patrimoine* (Annual Heritage Days). Thankfully, and thanks to Paris Zig Zag, there is plenty of information about the abandoned underground stations.

Photo: AFP

Photo: Vincent Desjardins /Flickr

### Abandoned for war





As France entered the Second World War, workers were called up to fight in the army. The lack of personnel and the need to cut costs meant that many stations were closed. Stations such as Arsenal (near Bastille in the east), Champ de Mars (by the Eiffel Tower), Saint-Martin (in the centre next to the Place de la République), or Croix-Rouge (in the Latin Quarter in the centre) were among these.

Photo: Martin Gautron /Flickr



### Historic adverts

The Saint-Martin station still has adverts from the 1940s on its walls. Situated between Strasbourg-Saint-Denis and République, the Metro lines 8 and 9 pass through it and thus has been used by Nissan or Microsoft who've attempted to catch travellers' eyes with hip advertising. The halls are currently used as a day centre for the homeless.

Photo: Martin Gautron /Flickr



### Transformations

Many of these ghost Metro stations have undergone transformations and are still used for a variety of different reasons, whether for filming some of the greatest films made in France or for training staff.

The old Metro station at Gare du Nord, known as Gare du Nord USFRT has been converted into the training grounds for new Metro drivers and Arsenal is used to train technicians, engineers and electricians.

The former Porte Maillot station in the north-west of Paris is now used for maintaining the trains.

The entrance to the Martin Nadaud station near the Pere Lachaise cemetery in eastern Paris is now used to access Gambetta. Its platforms however, remain deserted.

## Re-built stations

Les Halles, right in the centre of the city, was rebuilt a couple of metres away to facilitate the connection with the suburban RER train station when it was built in the 1970s.

The original Victor Hugo station in western Paris has also been rebuilt. New trains that came into service in the 1930s couldn't handle the initial sharp corner safely and it was decided to move the station a few metres north.

## Filming

Portes des Lilas - Cinéma, on the north eastern edge of Paris is now used for films and adverts, with film crews changing the sign on the wall to a current station. Did you know that smash hit *Amélie* was actually shot here?



Photo: AFP

## Never saw the light of day

The tunnels to reach Porte Molitor near Bois de Boulogne in Western Paris and Haxo station in the north east of city were never built. A platform inside the Invalides station by the River Seine is also closed-off and has never been accessed by a train.



Photo: Yann Caradec /Flickr

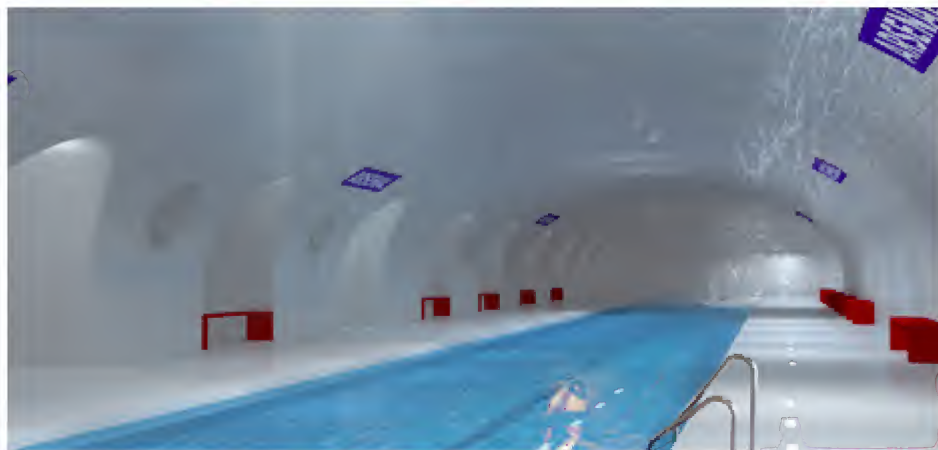
The Porte de Versailles station in the south of Paris has been replaced and all that remains from the original station are the tiles on the walls. The previous platforms

have been torn down to make space for a train garage.

Back in 2014 there was hope for transport buffs (and swimmers) when Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, who was running for mayor proposed that the old Metro stations be transformed into cinemas and underground swimming pools.



But then she lost out to Anne Hidalgo.



Still, hope remains that one day we'll wander down the old Metro steps in our skimpy French swimming trunks to take an underground dip.

**by James Vasina**

*(An artist's drawing of what Arsenal Metro station could look like after being converted into a swimming pool. OXO Architects)*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Parkour mishap leaves tall, thin man stuck in downtown Denver chimney

denverpost.com

The Denver Post

### Dustin Hinkle told cops he dropped into the abandoned incinerator chimney from a balcony above

By | | The Denver Post

PUBLISHED: February 17, 2017 at 2:17 pm | UPDATED: February 17, 2017 at 3:58 pm



Provided by the Denver Police Department  
Dustin Hinkle

A 26-year-old man who was rescued after getting stuck in a downtown Denver chimney on Thursday afternoon told police he had been practicing parkour, authorities say.

Dustin Hinkle was booked into jail on suspicion of trespassing after firefighters freed him from the chimney in a building at 1742 Champa St.

Two others — 20-year-old Mary McHugh and 23-year-old Jayce Anderson — also were arrested, accused of trespassing and interfering with a police officer.

It took crews about two hours to free Hinkle from where he was stuck in the chimney in a vacant apartment. He fell between 30 and 35 feet down the old incinerator chimney.

Police spokeswoman Christine Downs said Hinkle told investigators he had been practicing parkour — the sport of running, jumping and climbing over obstacles in urban environments — when he became stuck.

According to a probable cause statement, Hinkle said he had been let into the apartment building by his friend “Jayce” and that he went up to the fourth floor roof area to “play parkour.”

Police say Jayce Anderson has no affiliation with the building where Hinkle fell into the chimney.

“Hinkle states that he dropped onto the open chimney from an above balcony and fell in,” the statement says. “Hinkle admitted that he had no legitimate business in the building.”

The damage caused by the rescue will likely be in the thousands of dollars, according to the police report.

Hinkle is being held at Denver’s downtown jail. Jail records show he is 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 170 pounds.

“It appeared to me to be a pretty small chimney,” Denver Fire Department spokeswoman Melissa Taylor said.

### Jesse Paul

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Pastafarian colander pic strains legality for Dutch license

yahoo.com

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch court has upheld a mayor's refusal to issue a driver's license to a man who submitted a photo of himself wearing a colander on his head.

According to a court statement Wednesday, the man wanted the photo on his license as an expression of his Pastafarian faith.

Pastafarians belong to the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, a parody group that began in the U.S. in 2005 protesting religion encroaching into the nation's public schools.

The mayor of the Dutch city of Eindhoven last year rejected the man's request, in part because he ruled that the group couldn't be considered a genuine religion. Religious headdresses are allowed on Dutch passport photos.

The court agreed, saying that Pastafarian faith "did not show sufficient seriousness to be considered a religion."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## I'm certain who Jack the Ripper was, and this monster once gave painting lessons to Winston Churchill

| February 27, 2017 1:43 PM ET

[nationalpost.com](http://nationalpost.com)

### I'm certain who Jack the Ripper was, and this monster once gave painting lessons to Winston Churchill



[patriciacornwell.com](http://patriciacornwell.com) Patricia Cornwell

LONDON — Five years ago, I happened to be looking at a crime scene photograph of Mary Kelly, a victim of Jack the Ripper. Brutally murdered in early November 1888, she's

erroneously believed to be his fifth and final victim. More likely, she was already his seventh or eighth, and unfortunately wouldn't be his last.

I had looked at this particular photograph countless times, but never noticed a bizarre and perhaps inexplicable detail in the faded sepia print taken by a police photographer's boxy wooden camera more than 125 years ago.

Modern forensic software can "see" what we can't, and had revealed some sort of diabolical graffiti on the wooden partition behind the bed where the body had been hacked and defleshed to the bone.

I wondered if my eyes were playing tricks on me. But no: on the wooden wall behind the body appears to be a subtle collection of figurative blotches — one resembling a man's face with parted hair.

I'd seen similar shapes before in the background of the British impressionist painter Walter Sickert's work, most notably Minnie Cunningham at the Old Bedford (1892) at Tate Britain, and in Ripper and Sickert correspondence. None of this constitutes evidence, of course, but I was reminded that I'd not finished what I started 15 years ago when I published *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper – Case Closed*.

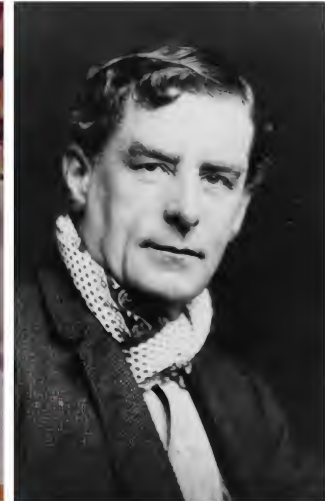
My goal was to shed light on the serial killer's identity by combining vigorous historical research with cutting-edge forensic technology, including DNA testing. It was the first time real science had been used in this case — and it cost me more than \$6 million in the process. Suffice to say that I had no idea what I was getting myself into.





It all began innocently enough. I was given a tour of Scotland Yard in 2001 and met John Grieve, then the deputy assistant commissioner. He was the first person to mention the name Walter Sickert as a possible Ripper suspect. I'd never heard of the artist prior to that and knew next to nothing about the Ripper case.

Given my investigative journalist background and my fictional series about the forensic expert Dr. Kay Scarpetta, however, I had a few questions. Who were the suspects? And based on what? Based on nothing but theories, Grieve replied, mentioning a silly tale about Queen Victoria's grandson supposedly being involved.



Apparently in the early Seventies a picture framer named Joseph Gorman claimed to be Sickert's illegitimate son, and said the artist had confided in him about the Ripper crimes and a so-called conspiracy involving the Royal family. The tale is long and convoluted, and I place no credence in it beyond the importance of Sickert telling such a story to begin with, to more than one person.

Sensational books and movies followed, and in 1993 a graphologist claimed to have matched Sickert's handwriting with the Ripper's. None of this is even remotely conclusive from an evidentiary standpoint. But I got curious. I began looking into Sickert's paintings, writings, and every detail about his life I could find. From the beginning, I began uncovering unsettling parallels between him and the Ripper.

Over the past five years I've spent thousands of hours, as well as another small fortune, investing in Sickert's art, memorabilia and, more importantly, other original documents, evidence and technologies. I've continued working with top scientists and art experts, sifting through piles of archival materials, using non-destructive forensic paper analysis and special light sources.

The upshot is that I have never been surer of Sickert's guilt. I believe he was responsible for the Jack the Ripper crimes and other debaucheries, including dismemberment, cannibalism and the murder and mutilation of children. The body count could be as high as 20, possibly more. I doubt we'll ever know.

News reports placed the toll at seven victims by early winter of 1888, but in subsequent police memoirs the number of victims was whittled down to five. The truth is that after Mary Kelly's hideous murder terrorized London, the police seemed to stop counting. Possibly they wanted to believe the

Ripper was gone. He wasn't; he struck again multiple times, and mocking Ripper letters also went on for years.

It was too quickly accepted that Sickert had an alibi

Ultimately, it is these letters that have caught him. Or, bluntly put, British forensic paper expert Peter Bower did, when he matched watermarks on five pieces of paper (three from Sickert correspondence, two from the Ripper) that came from a handmade paper run of only 24 possible sheets.

It was too quickly accepted that Sickert had an alibi — that he was in France when the Ripper crimes began. This isn't true. In various archival sources I discovered dated sketches that place him in London music halls at the time of at least three of the early killings.



Another sketch shows him sitting behind a woman with a big hat on: he had drawn her face, then stabbed her chest 17 times with a pencil, almost perforating the paper.

It's important to remember that DNA isn't the only evidence that can solve a case. Far from it, and there is a wealth of information in the original Ripper letters and telegrams. It's obvious that many of these rude, violent communications were written by an intelligent, artistic individual capable of painting a letter in gorgeous calligraphy, sketching cartoons and writing rhyming couplets.

Under magnification, what appears to be a sketch of a Neanderthal-like brute is actually an intricate woodblock print. Such techniques would have been second nature to Sickert.

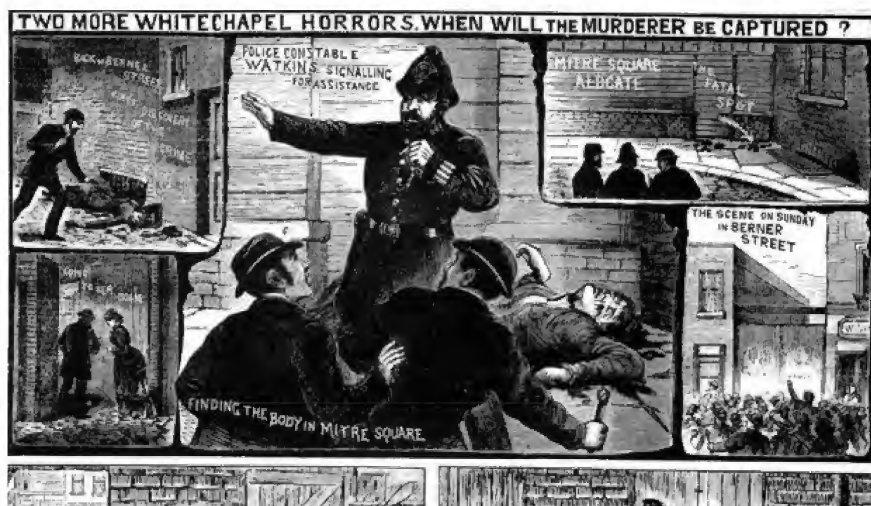
There are other teases. One letter was sent to a bogus address — Punch & Judy Lane — other letters include Punch & Judy-type illustrations. Sickert's Danish father was an illustrator for Punch & Judy. There are similar doodles and teases in a guestbook vandalized in Cornwall, possibly in late 1889, with sexually crude cartoons and the signature, "Jack the Ripper, Whitechapel" in several places. British art historian Anna Robins has studied the Lizard guestbook and concluded this vandalism was committed by Sickert.

Certainly it was well known that he was obsessed with the Ripper; he titled one of his paintings Jack the Ripper's Bedroom and accounts from friends suggest he would dress up as the monster, putting on a red neckerchief and painting in the glow of a bull's-eye lantern.

Sickert was a narcissist and a sociopath. He could be attractive, entertaining and charismatic, but his friends also knew him as cruel and exploitative. He was a baffling chameleon, changing his hair or name whenever the mood struck.

So what might have created the perfect storm of Jack the Ripper? The underpinnings were probably put in place during the early 1860s when he was a young child and endured three traumatic surgeries on his genitalia or rectum (or both) for a fistula. In the Ripper letters there are multiple





phallic allusions in words and in drawings. A “concerned citizen” even offers that the Ripper’s motivation might have been his damaged “privy part.”

### Related

Sickert was 81 when he died in 1942. By then he was considered an important, controversial artist who captured low-life Victorian Britain through its shadowy music halls and

flickering interiors. His paintings have hung in the Tate and the National Gallery, and sold in the finest galleries for hundreds of thousands of pounds. I discovered one of his paintings hanging in Scotland Yard. He even gave painting lessons to Winston Churchill.



Many don’t understand why I’ve spent so much of my career and resources on this quest for truth. After I was a journalist, I went to work as a computer analyst for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Virginia, helping out in the morgue. I labelled test tubes, wiped up blood and saw, touched, smelled and even tasted death, because the stench of it clings to the back of the throat.

The dead stay dead, but murder isn’t a mystery and I feel that it’s my mission to fight it with my pen. That doesn’t mean this case is closed. It never will be, no matter what anyone believes. Certainly the Ripper didn’t think he’d ever be identified. “I think you all are asleep in Scotland Yard,” he taunted in one of his letters. “You never caught me and you never will.”

Then again, maybe he was wrong about that....

*Ripper: The Secret Life of Walter Sickert, by Patricia Cornwell, is published by Thomas & Mercer*

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'Penis seat' for men appears on public transport - but for an important reason

metro.co.uk

This site uses cookies. By continuing, your consent is assumed. [Learn more](#)  
Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk Sunday 26 Mar 2017 11:34 pm



Er... (Picture: Mexico City Metro)

**A certain seat on Mexico's Metro system is not as popular as the rest of them.**

Known as the 'penis seat', the plastic is moulded into a man's chest and groin area, complete with belly button, nipples and flaccid penis.

Video from the public transport shows people sitting down without

looking first, only to leap up again when they felt something unexpected between their legs.

It is reserved for men only, leading some to claim the move is sexist.

However, it was actually put there as part of a campaign against sexual harassment.

Mexico City Metro went viral with their stunt, which is meant to illustrate that people have a right to go about their journey without being confronted by sexual comments or people trying to grope them.

Men who sit down on the seat immediately feel uncomfortable.

But a sign next to it reads: 'It's uncomfortable to sit here but it doesn't compare with the sexual violence that women suffer in their everyday lives.'

The video above ends with the statistic: '9 out of 10 women in Mexico City have been victims of some form of sexual violence.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Peruvian Vampire Legend About a Woman from Blackburn, Lancashire - Urban Ghosts

urbanghostsmedia.com

In Mythology / By Debra Kelly / 30 September 2016



(Image: ink)

A cemetery in a small city in Peru might not seem like the most likely place to find the grave of a woman from Blackburn, Lancashire. But according to local legend, this may not be the northern English woman's final resting place, after all. It was long believed by some that Sarah Helen Roberts was actually a vampire, and that her undead body would rise from the grave 80 years after her demise.

This, of course, didn't happen, but as the fateful day – June 1, 1993 – approached, residents of Pisco, in the Ica Region of Peru, were prepared. The Independent reported soon after that vampire kits of garlic and crucifixes had been made and sold. Meanwhile, pregnant women had left town on the off chance that the dead woman's spirit was on the lookout for a child to be reborn into.

The legend that grew up around Sarah Helen Roberts is a wild one that began on June 9, 1913 when she was convicted of witchcraft and imprisoned in a lead coffin. Although her trial was held in England, the story goes that no-one would offer to bury the witch-vampire in consecrated ground.

(Image: F.W. Murnau)

Roberts' husband was condemned to wander the world in search of a place where he could lay his dead wife to rest. That place turned out to be half the world away, in Pisco, Peru. Legend also claimed that the Blackburn woman was one of the three brides of Dracula. Presumably, burying her alive wasn't going to kill her. It would merely make the ill-fated vampire extremely angry.

The Lancashire Telegraph looked into the real-life Sarah Helen Roberts, and found that she had married a weaver in 1892 and had two children. When her husband's brother moved to Peru to take a job in a cotton mill, the young family visited him there, where Sarah tragically died. The cause of death wasn't specified, but we do know that her husband returned to England to open a grocery store.

Quite how Sarah's story went from tragic tale to vampire legend isn't clear, but the Telegraph also noted the ominous date of her obituary: Friday the 13th. Perhaps that's all it took for superstition to take a hold, elevating an ordinary northern woman to the status of bride to one of folklore's most terrifying celebrities.

Urban Ghosts uses cookies to enhance your browsing experience and to serve you with advertisements that might interest you. By continuing to use this site, you agree to our use of cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

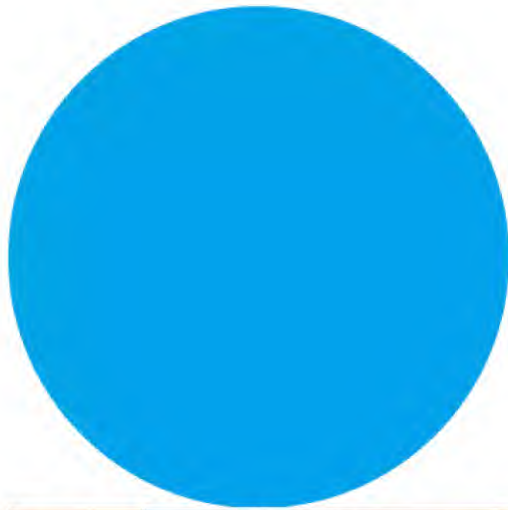
---

Copyright © 2016 Urban Ghosts Media. All Rights Reserved.

## 5 surprising things about the 'Phoenix Lights' sighting that we learned at UFO Congress

USA Today Network Sonja Haller, The Arizona Republic

usatoday.com



# USA TODAY™

© 2017 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Satellite Information Network, LLC.

The International UFO Conference is Feb. 15-19 at the We Ko Pa resort in Scottsdale. (Photo: Sonja Haller/The Republic)

PHOENIX — The "Phoenix Lights" incident remains a big deal to UFO researchers



UFO conference

worldwide even 20 years later because thousands reported witnessing the phenomenon.

We know the official explanation that the lights in the sky and possible craft were military flares left many, especially among UFO and extraterrestrial believers, unsatisfied. We know that the curiosity about it probably isn't going to go away anytime soon.

Several hundred people attended "The Importance of the Phoenix Lights-Mass UFO Sighting" panel discussion earlier this week as part of the International UFO Congress in Scottsdale.

Panelists included:

- Richard Dolan, a UFO writer and researcher, host of a weekly radio program and guest on the shows *Hangar One* and *Ancient Aliens*.
- Lynne Kitei, a witness to the lights and author of *Phoenix Lights: A Skeptic's Discovery That We Are Not Alone*.
- Jim Mann, director of Arizona MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), an investigative and research organization.

The panel was moderated by James Fox, a director of three UFO documentaries.

Here are a few things you may not know about the lights, according to the panel.

### 1. Mysterious lights were spotted in the months before March 13, 1997.

An image of the Phoenix Lights captured by Dr. Lynne Kitei.





(Photo: Lynne Kitei)

Two months before Phoenix became a hotbed of UFO interest, some reported seeing strange lights in the month before, including panelist Kitei.

## **2. It's called, the Phoenix Lights, but the mass sightings began in another state.**

UFO researchers report that before the lights were seen over Phoenix, they were first spotted near Henderson, Nev. Afterward, they were spied in Mexico.

"We call it the Phoenix Lights, but it's really not completely accurate," said Dolan, referencing the

sightings hours earlier in Nevada. "You're talking about two distinctive types of events. Could be related. Could be the same thing. Could be something different."

## **3. It took three months for news of the mass sightings to 'go viral.'**

The event happened in the middle of March, but it didn't become general knowledge until June 18, 1997, when USA TODAY put a brief headlined "Skies, phone lines light up Ariz." on the front page.

## **4. Even among some UFO investigators, there is not enough evidence to say it was extraterrestrial-related.**



(Photo: Sonja Haller/The Republic)

All things UFO, extraterrestrial and other worldly can be found in the vendors' room at the International UFO Congress.

"Do we have evidence that it was an extraterrestrial event? No," said MUFON investigator Mann. "We have evidence that it was an extremely bizarre event. We can't put a label on it other than it was an anomaly."

Mann added that Arizona MUFON investigated 325 cases of reported UFOs last year. The majority were explained, 12 were filed away as unknown.

## **5. Seeing the lights caused an unnatural reaction, according to some witnesses.**

Panelists shared that instead of being awed and immediately wanting to discuss what they saw, some witnesses reported a sort of temporary amnesia. Moderator Fox shared that while interviewing some hospice workers for one of his UFO documentaries about the event, they shared that they watched the lights appear and disappear over a period of time but didn't say a word about it. "We went right back to our tea," Fox said a woman told him.

Mann said he spoke to a man who reported that he stopped his car on the side of the road and watched with several others as a craft "slowly glided overhead. Not a word was spoken. After it went on by, everyone got in their car and drove home."



The Arizona Republic sifted through more than 100 reports from the Project Blue Book files, searching for the interesting, the bizarre and the unbelievable stories from Arizona's UFO sightings. Many of the names and specific locations within the reports were redacted by the U.S. Air Force. Thinkstock

4 p.m. July 7, 1947- The 30-year-old Mr. Rhodes of Phoenix heard the approach of an incoming jet . He stepped out his backdoor to look, but saw nothing. After several seconds however, a gray disc appeared over the horizon to the northeast. Mr. Rhodes ran to his workshop, grabbed his camera and snapped two pictures as the disc dipped under the clouds again. The disc then disappeared over the western horizon. The entire event lasted about 60 seconds. United States Air Force

5:45 p.m. April 28, 1949- A Tucson florist stood with two friends, when a silver object appeared over the rim of the Catalina Mountains. "It appeared sausage like in shape," the florist noted in his firsthand account. It had no wings, windows, fins or visible openings, facts corroborated by all three men. The sausage seemed to revolve in a slow roll, similar to an airplane at speeds estimated about 500 miles per hour, and at a height of about 5 to 10 miles above the Earth. The sighting lasted for about 12 minutes. United States Air Force

2:30 p.m. May 9, 1949- A U.S. Air Force sergeant spotted two flying objects while reclining on the front lawn of his home in northeast Tucson. The objects were flat, silver, reflective and "perfectly round." They appeared in the southwest of the sky, about the size of washtubs, approximately 10,000 feet in the air traveling between 750 and 1,000 miles per hours.. The pair headed northwest, banked to the left, then abruptly to the right, fading from view over the Catalina Mountains. United States Air Force

7:45 a.m. April 3, 1952- A civilian pilot instructor landed at Marana Air Base. While taxiing, the instructor noticed an object described as a "bright star" in the morning sky. The pilot instructor continued to keep his eye on the object. "It never moved the slightest fraction in relation to the canopy of my aircraft," he said in the report. After about 45 minutes of observation, the object suddenly vanished. "The object was bright and shone like polished aluminum. I've been flying for 25 years and never saw anything like it. It was weird," Logan said in a news article about the incident. United States Air Force

7:15 p.m. Jan. 27, 1953- A Cottonwood man stood outside his home watching an airplane fly overhead when he noticed the illuminated object. It appeared as a yellow-orange light, larger and brighter than any of the stars in the night sky. The man ran inside, grabbed a pair of binoculars and returned to see the light heading south. Through the binoculars, he could see the object was made of two lights, one brighter light near the head of the object, and a second fainter light near what he assumed was the tail. The man followed the object for about five minutes before it faded into the night. United States Air Force

Dec. 23, 1954- Kenneth Hite was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. Hite was flying a local combat air patrol mission when he encountered an unidentified object near Nogales. He was flying at an altitude of 15,000 feet, and noted the object was about 5,000 to 10,000 feet above him. Hite followed the object, which appeared about 10 miles ahead of him, he said. He continued pursuit at an altitude of 28,000 feet and a speed of 350 knots. After reaching Douglas, it turned south and Hite, again, gave chase. Not long after, Hite began to run low on fuel and had to return to base. United States Air Force

Oct. 17, 1955- Reports from a missing case file indicate that approximately 12 pale, yellow lights appeared over Yuma. The observer, described as a military source, said the formation of the pale lights was a wide "V" at a high altitude. The lights grew dimmer, smaller and faded away over the

course of about three to four seconds. Air Force conclusion: The duration and height of the sightings led military officials to believe the observer saw a meteor shower. United States Air Force 7:45 p.m. April 8, 1958- Two men in their 20s saw an unidentified flying object speeding from north to south while driving west on Main Street in Mesa. At first, the men said it had the appearance of a falling star with an approximate size of a grapefruit held at arm's length. What was peculiar, according to the report, was the object's movement and speed. The light rapidly descended to about 1,500 feet over the city of Mesa then slowly pulled into a steep climb until it performed a near vertical ascent, all the while accelerating. The object disappeared from view after a total of 10 seconds. United States Air Force

6:27 p.m. Oct. 19, 1958- A group of astronomers set up about nine miles outside of Benson to watch the Russian space satellite, Sputnik 1, and the third-stage rocket that helped it get into orbit. The observers instead saw a bright object over the southeastern horizon. It traveled rapidly across the sky then vanished out of view over the north-northwestern horizon after about five minutes. It was traveling in the opposite direction of the satellite's projected path, and was much too bright to be airplane lights, the observer wrote in the account. Dr. Bruce Maccabee

6:20 p.m. Feb. 24, 1960- The sun had just set behind the mountains when a 31-year-old Tucson man and his wife encountered a white, globular light while driving outside of downtown. He pulled to the side of the road to more closely examine the object. The object appeared over the mountains to the west, heading east over the city. As it flew, the object made drastic maneuvers, changing direction and slanting. After about 5 minutes, the diagonal streaks broke off the initial band of light, circling the object, then absorbed back into the original band. It appeared to glide over the sky, gently rising and then fading away to the south. United States Air Force

4:30 a.m. Aug. 10, 1964- An object with a trail of whitish-yellow flames and sparks skittered across the early-morning sky over Phoenix, according to reports from civilian and military observers. Two of the reports indicated the object looked like a fireball and could have been a meteor. Most agree, the source was very bright and came from a single object. No sound was reported. Most on the ground observed the object heading from west to east, but two flight crews reported the object moving southwest to northwest. United States Air Force

Sept. 7, 1965- A Tempe liquor-store clerk watched as six whitish-yellow objects flew low over the city as if they were going to land, before disappearing to the southeast over the mountains. Each of the objects were oval-shaped, and had windows that emanated a pinkish light, according to the clerk. Two of the lights were side by side, and four together. They emitted a high-pitched hum that hurt the ears of the observer, and gave her a headache. The officer producing the report noted that the clerk was convinced UFOs exist and had seen numerous UFOs during the four years prior. The clerk also said she had hypersensitive hearing that allows her to hear UFOs before she sees them. United States Air Force

Oct. 25, 1965- Nine miles southeast of Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, a military official watched the night sky from home. The observer noticed a bright object to the southwest. At first, the observer thought it resembled a star or planet. It oscillated from white to orange and black to white. Then it began to move. It changed directions from south to north, then moved to the southeast and east. It changed elevation, disappeared, then reappeared an hour after its first appearance. The observer described the movements as "erratic" and emphasized it moved at high speed. United States Air Force

8:05 p.m. Nov. 26, 1965- A husband, wife and son standing outside watched an explosion in the sky similar to Fourth of July fireworks, except that the rocket burst into a perfect circle of blue starlike objects. The cluster of 30 to 50 objects then moved south over Phoenix. Ten to 15 seconds after the first sighting, the cluster began "swarming like bees, resolving into two undulating 'V' formations," then melding back into a single V before disappearing while heading due south, according to a



summary of the event from the husband, who included his qualifications as an astronomer and a teacher of aircraft identification during World War II. Dr. Bruce Maccabee

5:40 p.m. Oct. 9, 1967- A 13-year-old boy said he watched a UFO take off from the desert. He described the object as looking like a large, silver water heater with 2 legs, each fitted with a curved pad. The boy said the UFO made a humming sound as it took off, and left an indescribable taste in his mouth. The report includes pictures of impressions in the sand the boy alleges were created by the UFO. The Aerial Phenomena Branch received the report, took pictures and soil samples, then sent them to the Ohio River Division Laboratory for testing. In turn, the lab found that the UFO could not possibly have been the size or dimensions described by the boy. United States Air Force

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## If you've ever wanted to order pizza by tapping your shoes - now you can

By Chris Baynes 20:39, 2 MAR 2017 Updated 20:58, 2 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Pizza Hut unveils bizarre 'Pie Tops' shoes that let you order takeaway at the tap of a foot

The shoes use geolocation to connect the wearer to the nearest their branch and link up with an app to place a predesignated order



Do you find dialling the number of your local takeaway a chore?

Is clicking a button to order food online just a little too laborious?

Well help is - finally - at hand, courtesy of some bizarre new shoes that allows customers to order a pizza with the tap of a foot.

Pizza Hut's 'Pie Tops' are kitted out with a button for summoning pizza, using geolocation to connect the

wearer to the nearest their branch and link up with an app to place a predesignated order.



*Pizza Hut Made 'Pie Tops,' With a Button on the Tongue to Order Pizza, for March Madness*

The bad news is only 64 of the limited-edition trainers have been made and will only be given to people considered to be 'influencers'.

Hand-stitched by Dominic Chambrone, also known as the Shoe Surgeon, the shoes will be released this month to coincide with the annual NCAA basketball tournament in the US.

Sixty-four pairs were made to match the 64 teams in the field.

Retired basketball player Grant Hill among the first to get his feet on a pair.

In an advert for the shoes, he said: "There comes a time when the hard way is the only way. Ordering Pizza Hut is not that time.

"When I want to order a large pizza from Pizza Hut, I can order from my Pizza Hut Pie Tops. Easy as pie."

The shoes - dreamt up by ad agency Droga5 - were made to tie in with a Pizza Hut promotion running in the US during March and April.

David Daniels, vice-president of media and advertising at Pizza Hut, told Ad Week : "As far as we know, this has never been done before.

"We feel it's highly culturally relevant. Sneakers are hot.

"We've enlisted a really cool professional to design these shoes for us—the Shoe Surgeon out of L.A. These 64 pairs are handmade, and pretty cool."

But most of us, for now at least, will have to stick to lifting a finger - rather than a foot - to order pizza.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Pilgrims loot Rome homes 'to pay for Padre Pio trip'

thelocal.it



*A monk prays in front of the exhumed body of mystic saint Padre Pio. Photo: Filippo Monteforte/AFP*

The Local/AFP

9 February 2016

11:38 CET+01:00

They travelled up to Rome from Puglia to see the remains of Italy's beloved saint, Padre Pio...but instead they broke one of the 10 commandments.

'Thou shall not steal' was clearly the furthest thing from the minds of the couple from Bari when they decided to loot two holidays homes and flee without paying the bill for their stay.

All this after supposedly seeing Saint Padre Pio's body, which is on display in Rome until February 11th after being temporarily moved to the capital from a town in Puglia last week as part of the Holy Year, or Jubilee of Mercy, celebrations.

The couple were arrested on Sunday afternoon, allegedly carrying bags of stolen goods from the two properties they rented during their stay, *Il Messaggero* reported.

And they clearly seized on the "mercy" theme of the Holy Year in an attempt to atone for their sins, asking a court on Monday to show them leniency because "they needed the money to pay for their Padre Pio pilgrimage".

Padre Pio's 50-year-old corpse was transferred from San Giovanni Rotondo last week, with thousands of pilgrims lining the streets as the body was brought to Saint Peter's Basilica on Friday.

His remains, which were exhumed from a crypt and given a facial reconstruction in 2008, were blessed by Pope Francis on Sunday.

Pio was revered during his lifetime (1887-1968) and his popularity has continued to grow since his death, particularly in Italy, where mini-statues and pictures of the mystical Capuchin friar are ubiquitous.

Canonized under Pope John-Paul II, Pio's brand of popular, mystical Catholicism was less popular with the Vatican authorities when he was alive.

He regularly recounted having experienced both heavenly and diabolic visions, other clerics claimed to have witnessed him levitating in ecstasy and he was frequently associated with apparently miraculous recoveries among the seriously ill.

From the age of 31 until the end of his life he regularly presented with stigmata - body marks corresponding to the wounds Jesus Christ received during his crucifixion, according to biblical accounts.

One sceptic wrote a book suggesting Pio maintained his wounds with acid while a prominent doctor theorized that he suffered from a rare form of haemophilia.

While Pio was regarded with suspicion by popes John XXIII and Paul VI, he was admired by Polish pope John Paul II, who confessed to the friar when he was a young priest.

And Francis has further promoted the veneration of Padre Pio, encouraging the creation of prayer groups dedicated to him when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Pio's legend was further enhanced after his death when his body was exhumed and allegedly found to be in remarkably good condition.

There were, however, no signs of any stigmata and his skull had become exposed, which resulted in a silicon face mask being made for him.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 2 fined nearly \$31,000 for poaching elk on TV hunting show

yahoo.com

**AP** DOUGLAS, Wyo. (AP) — Two Kentucky men who appeared on a cable television hunting show have been fined nearly \$31,000 and have lost their hunting privileges for 15 years after poaching two bull elk in southeastern Wyoming in 2014.

The case emerged when a Wyoming resident watching "Hunting in the Sticks" on the Pursuit Channel reported that the men appeared to have killed elk in the wrong hunting district during an episode titled "Western Redemption."

"I believe the two defendants were driven to get kill-shot footage for the television show and that resulted in their making bad decisions," said Mike Ehlebracht, an investigator with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Ricky J. Mills and Jimmy G. Duncan, both of Bedford, Kentucky, pleaded guilty to several poaching violations Monday. The websites and Facebook page for the TV show were offline Tuesday.

Information about the show on the Pursuit Channel website says, "Every deer we harvest, every turkey we call in, they are earned, and that's the way we want it!"

Duncan, 25, was ordered to pay \$17,500 in fines and restitution, including \$6,000 in restitution for a bull elk and \$4,000 for an antelope he killed in 2013. Mills, 37, was ordered to pay \$13,460. The Game and Fish Department said they also had to forfeit their elk mounts.

The loss of hunting and trapping privileges extends to 44 states, including Kentucky, that are part of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Policing the Colony: From the American Revolution to Ferguson

thenation.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: This essay is adapted from *A Colony in a Nation* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2017).

When a cop tells you to do something, do it. You hear this folk wisdom a lot, and it basically comes in two varieties. The first version is the central lesson of “the Talk” that so many African-American parents give their children about how to survive a police encounter: *Keep your hands on the wheel. Don't make sudden movements. Say “Yes, officer. No, officer.”*

The other version isn't merely practical advice but reflects a deeper belief about the sanctity of police authority. It's what lies behind the question you so often hear: *Why didn't she just do what the cop said?* That inquiry comes unbidden every time an incident of police violence is captured on video. Even when the citizen in question is, say, a 16-year-old foster child sitting at her desk in her classroom in Columbia, South Carolina, refusing to leave, only to be body-slammed and dragged across the room. *Why didn't she just comply? None of this would have happened if she'd just listened.*

Section 29-16(1) of the municipal code of the city of Ferguson, Missouri, codifies this principle. It is a crime to “[f]ail to comply with the lawful order or request of a police officer in the discharge of the officer's official duties.” As the Department of Justice would later show, the police much abuse this statute. Ferguson cops routinely issue orders that have no legal basis and then arrest citizens who refuse those orders for “failure to comply.” It's a neat little circular bit of authoritarian reasoning.

One video captured during the Ferguson protests in August 2014 encapsulates the absurdity of this abuse of police power. In it, Ferguson police order protesters who are standing in their own yards to go back inside their homes. When they refuse to comply, the police shoot tear gas at them, as one of the men protesting shouts, “This is my backyard! This is our home! This is our residence!”

### Police to Media: ‘You’re Getting Maced Next Time You Pass Us’

Chris Hayes

Can the police do this? Don't you have a right to stand in your own yard? Thirteen years before the Declaration of Independence, British member of Parliament William Pitt defended the rights of Englishmen to privacy in their own home. He declared: “The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail; its roof may shake; the wind may blow through it; the storm may enter; the rain may enter; but the King of England cannot enter—all his forces dare not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement!”

The events on the streets of Ferguson in the days after Michael Brown's death didn't outrage black people alone—they spooked people of all races. People who'd never had occasion to personally distrust the police wondered what the hell weapons of war were doing on the streets of this small St. Louis suburb. Politicians from both parties raised their voices to express concern, and to urge restraint, as the nightly news carried images of the kinds of disorder—tear gas, riot gear, clashes with police—that we normally associate with countries where the government sends in armed troops to put down dissidents, or where the possibility of all-out war does not seem remote.

Of course none of this would have happened, some argued, if protesters had done what they were told. If everyone had listened to the police, everything could have continued as it always had.

Societies operate through formal procedures of law and force but also through norms of compliance. Without those norms, nothing would function. Suppose you want to make a left-hand turn, but a traffic cop says you can't. You don't ask her to cite the law. You assume there's a good reason for her to be blocking that street. Maybe there's been an accident. Or maybe there will be less traffic, and things will be more orderly, if she keeps you and everyone else from making a left at rush hour. Fine. Fair enough. Do what the cop says.

This great land of ours was founded by men who, to borrow a phrase, refused to comply.

But as a principle of American self-governance, "do what the cops say" is a pretty strange unofficial motto. This great land of ours was founded by men who, to borrow a phrase, refused to comply, who not only resisted lawful orders but rebelled against the government that issued them. Colonists chased the king's officers through the streets, beat them, tarred and feathered them, and wheeled them through town for all to mock and shame. As distant as it may seem now, that's our national heritage when it comes to "lawful orders."

Several mornings after Michael Brown was shot and killed, and a group of angry youths burned down the local QuikTrip gas station, I ran into a few gentlemen assembled in that same burned-out parking lot, arguing and talking about politics as they cleaned up the site. One man in his 50s, with a wiry intensity, looked into the camera and said, "We want the world to know that we are a dignified, intelligent people, and we deserve every liberty that the United States Constitution affords any citizen."

But what was the Constitution doing, really, in Ferguson? It seemed an absurdly remote abstraction, as practical a piece of protection as reciting a poem into the barrel of a gun. And yet, in a grand irony, the document itself—and the nation it binds together—was born of almost the exact same set of grievances as those of the protesters getting teargassed in the streets of Ferguson.

We are taught in grade school that the motto of the American Revolution was "No taxation without representation." The tyrannical King George III insisted on taxing the colonies against their will, employing ever more draconian measures to do so, until the colonists could take it no longer. But dig a little deeper into the history, and it turns out the spark of the revolution was not so much taxation as the enforcement of a particular tax regime—in other words, policing.

Today the word "taxes" conjures up images of our modern administrative state, with automatic payroll deductions and marginal brackets. But that image fails to capture what taxation meant in the colonies at the time of the revolution. Under the British colonial system, the lion's share of taxes was assessed as tariffs. Merchants and consumers in the colonies had to import nearly all of their products from British companies and pay very steep tariffs to do so. To the mercantilist empires at the time, the logic was impeccable: Colonies meant cheap commodity imports for the home country, a lucrative market for manufactured exports, and significant revenues through tariffs on all those exchanges. (The British would later employ this same logic to outlaw Indians on the subcontinent from making their own salt or weaving their own garments.)

This system, of course, only kicked in when the British Empire made the goods the colonists wanted to buy. Often, many popular products weren't produced anywhere in the empire. Madeira wine, for

example, was made in rival Portugal and became quite popular in the colonies (George Washington was a famous devotee of the beverage), but it had to be smuggled in.

Despite their illegitimacy before British law, local shipping magnates who trafficked in illicit goods like Madeira were men of great wealth, prestige, and power. John Hancock, the man whose signature dominates the founding documents, was one of the most infamous smugglers of his day. He was a criminal, basically—and he and his fellow smugglers kept the colonies running. Without the goods they smuggled, there would have been little local economy to speak of.

Because the black market was so widespread, agents of the Crown tended to view the colonies as a den of iniquity, a seedy place overwhelmingly populated by hustlers, hucksters, and shady characters. One British officer referred to the residents of Newport, Rhode Island, one of the main smuggling hubs at the time, as “a set of lawless piratical people...whose sole business is that of smuggling and defrauding the King of his duties.”

Smuggling in the colonies, in other words, was not so different from drug-dealing in economically depressed neighborhoods and regions today. During the pre-Revolutionary era, smugglers created economic activity that caused huge knockoff effects: a cascade of subsidiary industries and cash flow that kept a whole lot of people in the money. The same goes for dealers in, say, Westside Baltimore or the South Side of Chicago, or northern Maine or eastern Kentucky. Sure, the drug trade is illegal, reckless, and destructive, but it encourages commerce in places where the legitimate economy produces few jobs. Dealers, like smugglers, become institutions—the way, say, New Englanders viewed John Hancock in the years leading to the revolution.

In fact, smuggling was so embedded in colonial society that British officers complained they couldn't find anyone to enforce the law who wasn't somehow connected to it. When they did manage to prosecute cases, they found that colonial juries engaged in their own version of nullification. Between 1680 and 1682, New England's head of customs brought 32 seizure cases to trial. He lost 30.

The laws were unenforceable because the market demand was nearly limitless, and the colonies were an ocean away. And for much of the 18th century, the British Empire's attitude toward our founders' rampant smuggling was one of benign neglect. The law was enforced in the same way drug laws are very loosely “enforced” on elite college campuses. Authorities know it's happening, but they don't go out of their way to bust people for it. Between 1710 and 1760, as the population of the colonies quintupled to over 1.5 million, the total number of customs agents rose from 37 to 50.

But then, as is so often the case, a war changed everything. Between 1754 and 1763, Britain fought a bloody and expensive campaign against the French and allied indigenous tribes in North America. As the so-called Seven Years' War dragged on, colonial officials watched in horror as smugglers openly flouted wartime laws that prohibited trading with the French enemy. When Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the conflict, it gained much of Canada and Florida—but it had incurred a staggering amount of debt. The inexperienced young king, George III, turned to tariff enforcement in the colonies as a relatively painless way of replenishing the royal coffers. Or so he thought.

After 1763, customs officials began operating in ways that looked a lot like what we now call “stop-and-frisk.”

Because taxes were ultimately enforced through police actions, the British crackdown essentially inaugurated America's first tough-on-crime era. More customs officials were granted more



expansive powers, while courts were streamlined to produce swift punishment and avoid the maddening jury nullification that had made it so hard to punish smugglers in previous decades. After 1763, customs officials no longer looked the other way in exchange for small bribes. Instead, they began operating in ways that looked a lot like what we now call “stop-and-frisk.” They took to trawling the coast, stopping merchant ships to search and harass them. Authorities had no specific cause for these searches other than their confidence that they’d find illicit goods.

This was the same approach and justification that the New York Police Department infamously used to search for drugs and guns in the pockets of hundreds of thousands of young men, disproportionately black and brown, on the city’s streets in the 2000s. In a landmark ruling, a federal district judge found that stop-and-frisk amounted to wholesale, systematic violation of the Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted search and seizure. “While it is true that any one stop is a limited intrusion in duration and deprivation of liberty, each stop is also a demeaning and humiliating experience,” Judge Shira Scheindlin wrote. “No one should live in fear of being stopped whenever he leaves his home to go about the activities of daily life.”

The British legal tradition has no Fourth Amendment, but common law had developed some privacy protections—at least for some. American colonists, however, became subject to British invasions of their carriages, ships, and homes without the safeguards enjoyed by their English cousins. Widely used “writs of assistance” allowed British officials to invade their homes willy-nilly, as part of a broader scheme to squeeze American pocketbooks. After the Seven Years’ War, the hated writs of assistance empowered British customs officials to stop and search ships coming into New England ports.

You can imagine how insulting and humiliating the colonists found this arrangement. As subjects of the Crown, they felt entitled to the legal rights enjoyed by their brethren across the ocean, yet the king had functionally relegated them to second-class status. British subjects in Britain experienced one set of rights; British subjects in the colonies experienced a lesser set.

The use of the writs was also disruptive. When citizens come to expect and understand a certain level of enforcement, they tailor their behavior accordingly. I have a keen sense that if I park in any of the various illegal spaces in my neighborhood, I’ll probably get a ticket, and when I do, I understand it as the cost of the illegal action that I knowingly took. But if you’re looking to make a community furious, then arbitrarily fiddle with enforcement norms and see what happens. Imagine if suddenly the Cambridge, Massachusetts, authorities were to import the law-enforcement approach used in central Harlem to police Harvard University. A massive police presence would be visible on every quad and in front of every dorm. Cops would stop and frisk students on their way to class; they would search the swank homes of parents of students caught with drugs. The student body and their very powerful parents would revolt.

In the American colonies, the backlash was intense. At first, the smugglers and their allies in the revolutionary hotbeds of New England port towns mounted legal challenges. James Otis Jr., a Harvard-trained Boston lawyer and charismatic orator, rose to prominence as the chosen advocate of the smuggler class. In 1761, representing merchants pro bono, Otis appeared before the Superior Court of Massachusetts to argue against the British use of writs of assistance, calling them the “worst instrument of arbitrary power, the most destructive of English liberty and the fundamental principles of law, that ever was found in an English law-book,” and “a power that places the liberty of every man in the hands of every petty officer.”

But opposition to the crackdown wasn't limited to the courts: Petitions and pamphlets tumbled forth with ever-mounting indignation and fury. Mob violence was a central feature of the burgeoning revolutionary movement. Customs officials found themselves surrounded, jeered at, and harassed as they attempted to execute their official duties. Often mobs would simply steal back the confiscated contraband.

The problem that King George III faced would bedevil authorities for centuries, from the revenueurs of Prohibition to the modern Drug Enforcement Administration: When the state declares some popular good illicit, the state must pursue ever more draconian means to snuff it out. And as customs officials were granted more and more power to extinguish illicit trade, they inevitably began to abuse it. Often they made their money as a percentage of the value of the goods they confiscated, putting them in the same position as pirates. Abuse and corruption were widespread, and as enforcement ratcheted up, so did colonial hatred of the men doing the enforcing. When extra customs officials proved insufficient to the task, the British authorities called in the Navy. Now military vessels and sailors boarded and searched ships suspected of smuggling. The spectacle of this militarized policing enraged the colonists.

Animus built toward the most famous incident of the pre-Revolutionary period, the Boston Tea Party. Contrary to what you may have learned, the tea dumped from ships of the British East India Company was relatively cheap, even after including the price of the import tariff. The Crown had granted the East India Company sole monopoly of the import of this tea, making it the single legal competitor to the vast armada of smugglers of illegal Dutch tea that flooded the colonies. And, in fact, what so enraged the revolutionary mob that defiled this shipment was that the Crown had recently lowered the import tariff on this legal tea, making it more economically competitive with smuggled tea. In other words, the Tea Party was triggered not by taxes being raised but rather by a *tax cut*. The event only makes sense in the broader context of an enforcement regime whose abuses and excesses had destroyed the government's legitimacy.

Escalating conflict between smugglers and the officers who policed smuggling was one of the chief drivers toward the outbreak of violent insurgency that led to the country's founding. It was the point of the spear, where the inherent contradictions of colonial rule were made most acutely, painfully, and sometimes violently manifest. When the colonial insurrectionists railed against the king, it was his customs officers who embodied his tyranny. And sure enough, in the Declaration of Independence, in the list of petty indignities and offensive tyrannies of the Crown, we find an excoriation of the king for the fact that he has "sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

So what does all of this have to do with Ferguson? When you zoom out past the precipitating incident of Michael Brown's death and look at the Ferguson police as a whole, you find an enforcement regime strikingly similar to the British Crown's. The fundamental offense of British customs policing was that its driving rationale was revenue. Like the customs officers who interdicted smugglers to bring in tariffs, the police in Ferguson were ordered to write tickets to bring in money. That kind of law enforcement had nothing to do with public safety or welfare, and the public knew it. As the Department of Justice wrote in its report on the patterns and practices of the department:

Ferguson's law enforcement practices are shaped by the City's focus on revenue rather than by public safety needs. This emphasis on revenue has compromised the institutional character of Ferguson's police department, contributing to a pattern of unconstitutional policing, and has also

shaped its municipal court, leading to procedures that raise due process concerns and inflict unnecessary harm on members of the Ferguson community.

Like the regime in the American colonies, the enforcement regime in Ferguson had a lot to do with the lack of democratic accountability. In 1990, Ferguson was 74 percent white and 25 percent black. A decade later, African Americans were a slim majority, and by the time Michael Brown was shot and killed, they comprised about two-thirds of the town's 21,000 residents. The white people who stayed had a certain pride in their own enlightenment and open-mindedness. "It's ironic this happened in Ferguson, because Ferguson had the reputation of being one of the most progressive [towns] in north St. Louis County," native Umar Lee told me. But if they are relatively enlightened, the white citizens of Ferguson are also disproportionately empowered: Despite the fact they are a minority of the municipality, they dominate its political leadership.

In 2009, in a city of just 21,000, there were 24,000 traffic cases in the municipal court.

In Ferguson, just about every single black person I spoke to had at least one story (often many) about humiliating traffic stops by Ferguson police officers that had nothing to do with public safety. The statistics bear them out. In 2009, in a city of just 21,000, there were 24,000 traffic cases in the Ferguson municipal court, and by October 31, 2014, that figure had grown to 53,000. Nearly all levels of Ferguson's municipal government had pushed for the increase. In March 2010, the city's finance director warned the police chief, Tom Jackson, that "unless ticket writing ramps up significantly before the end of the year, it will be hard to significantly raise collections next year." By 2014, the year of Michael Brown's death, tickets and citations were still increasing as rapidly as they ever had. The DOJ found evidence that black residents of Ferguson received speeding tickets "at disproportionately high rates overall" and that the Ferguson police department's "enforcement practices on African Americans is 48 percent larger when citations are issued not on the basis of radar or laser, but by some other method, such as the officer's own visual assessment."

The model of cops as armed tax collectors didn't stop with simple traffic stops for speeding: The entire municipal court system was designed to function like a payday-lending operation. Relatively small infractions quickly turned into massive debts. Many traffic citations required the ticketed person to make court appearances, but the local court would hold sessions only three to four times a month for just a few hours. Because of the limited hours, the court couldn't process everyone who came for their court date. Those left outside were cited for contempt for failing to appear. Not coming to court triggered another fine, and failure to pay that fine counted as its own form of contempt, adding to the total.

By 2015, fines and fees would make up more than one-fifth of the city of Ferguson's total revenue. The local leadership class clearly saw tickets and citations as a convenient source of cash that would fill the city's treasury without their having to do the politically difficult work of raising taxes. The problem with raising, say, property taxes is that the most engaged, empowered citizens will revolt against it. So instead, why not just squeeze all you can out of a less powerful group of citizens by raising the revenue through enforcement? The citizens receive municipal services, and the subjects have to pay for them. King George III succumbed to the same temptation.

Of course, just as with the colonial customs officers, a policing regime designed to extract revenue and stamp out petty nonviolent offenses is going to need ever-grander grants of power. In addition to the oft-abused "failure to comply" statute, Ferguson cops could marshal a bevy of other municipal infractions—such as "manner of walking in roadway" violations—for their purposes. This meant that the black citizens of Ferguson lived in a different country than their white neighbors. They lived in a



country without a Fourth Amendment, without the fundamental right to privacy, the right to be “secure” in one’s personal effects, whether in one’s body, house, or car. They lived (and continue to live) the contingent existence of the occupied.

All this was the context for what happened in Ferguson after Michael Brown was killed. I’ve never been anywhere in the United States that felt as revolutionary as those days of unrest there. And it wasn’t primarily because of the protesters or the relatively small handful of (mostly) young men looting and setting things on fire. It was because the response of the cops was so heavy-handed, so panicky. In response to the outrage that poured forth on that summer afternoon, the police of Ferguson and St. Louis County mobilized as if for war: flak jackets, masks, helmets, camouflage, assault weapons, and armored vehicles. Cops pointed their long guns at civilians who assembled for peaceful protest and fired tear-gas canisters indiscriminately.

Presented with a challenge to its power, an illegitimate regime will often overreact, driven by the knowledge that all it has is force. On the streets of Ferguson, one could, in every moment, feel the police officers’ lack of legitimacy. There was nothing behind them; their guns provided their only authority. One threatened to mace me on live TV because I drifted too close to him while broadcasting. And in his contorted face, I could see how terrified he was.

There was one detail of Michael Brown’s death that protesters and residents alike kept returning to, and it wasn’t the “hands up” contention. It was the body. After the shooting, Michael Brown’s body lay in the street for more than four hours: bloody, baking in the hot August sun. His brains spattered on the concrete. Police would say they needed to be diligent with their forensic investigation, but to those who assembled in the minutes after Brown’s death, the inert, uncovered, disrespected body was the perfect symbol of the Ferguson police’s contempt. One resident who was there said it felt like the kind of thing the Mafia would do after a hit—just leave the body out for all to see as a warning.

To desecrate the dead is to humiliate the living, and humiliation may be the most powerful and most underappreciated force in human affairs. The angry citizen can shout, and the terrified citizen can lock the doors, or flee, or move, or arm himself. But the humiliated citizen can neither express her feelings nor respond to the offense. For it is in the nature of humiliation that it happens at the hands of someone with greater power: the police officer who pulls over the young black man behind the wheel and wants to hear no lip; the corrupt bureaucrat who comes to inspect the businessman’s shop, looking for violations; the surly immigration official who goes through the immigrant’s belongings.

In Ferguson, people were enraged at Michael Brown’s death and grieving at his passing, but more than anything else they were sick and tired of being humiliated. At random, I could take my microphone and offer it to a black Ferguson resident, young or old, who had a story of being harassed and humiliated. A young honors student and aspiring future politician told me about watching his mother be pulled over and barked at by police. The local state senator told me that when she was a teenager, a police officer drew a gun on her because she was sitting in a fire truck—at a fireman’s invitation. At any given moment, a black citizen of Ferguson might find himself shown up, dressed down, made to stoop and cower by the men with badges.

We can all access some version of this feeling—even people of tremendous privilege can know the sting of humiliation. But for subjects of authoritarian rule, humiliation is the permanent state of existence. “There is the man at the top,” Frantz Fanon wrote of his native Martinique, “and there are

his courtiers, the indifferent (who are waiting), and the humiliated.” In a colonial system, you can have power and be close to those with power, or you can be humiliated.

To the founders, the solution to the humiliations of the Crown was violent revolution, then a republic. Of course, in the tortured and prolonged negotiations that ultimately created the Constitution, many of the original grievances—particularly the unreasonable searches and seizures, the lack of due process, and the heavy-handed quartering of soldiers in colonists’ homes—went unaddressed. Final ratification came only after citizens were assured that a Bill of Rights, which explicitly addressed many of the Crown’s egregious overreaches, was on its way. The framers thus included in the Fourth Amendment these words:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The existence of the Bill of Rights is an acknowledgment of the fact that democracy, by itself, is no guarantee against the potential excesses of the state’s police power. But on the ground in Ferguson, the Bill of Rights itself seemed to have no force. So the question that kept tugging at me, amid the tear gas and the sonic cannon, the shouts and protests and fires, was: What exactly was “the law” in this heretofore little-known town? Whose authority held here, and why? Was it covered by the Constitution, or had we all managed to slip into some legal multiverse, where the standard rules, the ones our forefathers had fought and died for, that we pledged allegiance to as schoolchildren, simply did not exist?

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the DOJ report is how open and honest the city officials are about their police department’s purpose, how certain they seem that no one is watching them. Their comments suggest no winking and nudging, no ironic and knowing smiles. Just plain statements of financial goals, of dollars and cents. At one point the department started a new “I-270 traffic enforcement initiative” in order to “begin to fill the revenue pipeline.” The masterminds behind it warned that the initiative would require “60 to 90 [days] of lead time to turn citations into cash.”

None of the people administering this enterprise appear concerned that what they’re doing is a gross violation of their duty to their constituents. And when you ask yourself how this report came to be written, the reason for their nonchalance is evident. The damning pages of the report exist only because a 17-year-old black boy was shot and killed by a police officer, and because that shooting led to an uprising. That uprising in turn led to the DOJ getting involved, which in turn led to the investigation that produced this audit.

Ferguson’s practices were hiding in plain sight for all to see for years.

But how many other police departments are like the one in Ferguson? We happen to know of this one because of this young man’s death, because of the outrage and activism that followed that death. But Ferguson’s practices were hiding in plain sight for all to see for years. And in fact, when I talked to people in Ferguson, they didn’t think there was much that was special about it. A *Washington Post* investigation of the municipal court system in the towns surrounding Ferguson found identical violations across the board. This is what “the law” looks like in the Colony, where real democratic accountability is lacking, when the consent of the governed is absent or forsaken or betrayed, and when the purpose of policing and courts isn’t the maintenance of safety and provision of justice but rather some other aim.

But empires of old kept their colonies at a distance: Rome conquered the Gauls across the Alps. France ruled Algeria from across the Mediterranean. King George III dispatched troops across the Atlantic to administer the New World. In the United States in 2016, such distance does not exist: The “rough” part of Ferguson is maybe a thousand yards from the “nice” neighborhoods.

And so the maintenance of the Nation’s integrity requires constant vigilance. The borders must be enforced without the benefit of actual walls and checkpoints. This requires an ungodly number of interactions between the sentries of the state and those the state views as the disorderly class. The math of large numbers means that with enough of these interactions and enough fear and suspicion on the part of the officers who wield the gun, hundreds of those who’ve been marked for monitoring will die.

One of those deaths was a Staten Island grandfather named Eric Garner, who was choked to death by a New York cop in July 2014. In a small working-class neighborhood in Staten Island, Garner sold individual cigarettes—loosies—which are illegal in New York. In other words: Eric Garner, like John Hancock, was a merchant trafficking in black-market goods. He was offering what the market demanded—a cheaper, unbundled, untaxed cigarette. And the government seeking to crack down on this offense harassed him—he’d been arrested twice for selling loosies in 2015 alone. Day after day, Eric Garner simply had to swallow a particular type of ritualized humiliation. He had to take it. Every day, the humiliation and frustration built within him.

On the day he died, Eric Garner was wrestled to the ground and put into a chokehold as he screamed with increasing desperation, “I can’t breathe,” 11 times, until he lost consciousness and died. All this was recorded as plain as day on a smartphone that captured Garner’s final protests: “Every time you see me, you want to mess with me. I’m tired of it. It stops today.... Every time you see me, you want to harass me. You want to stop me [garbled] selling cigarettes. I’m minding my business, officer, I’m minding my business. Please just leave me alone. I told you the last time, please just leave me alone. Please please, don’t touch me. Do not touch me.”

Those final words could have been just as well addressed to a colonial customs officer: Every time you see me, you want to harass me. It stops today.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



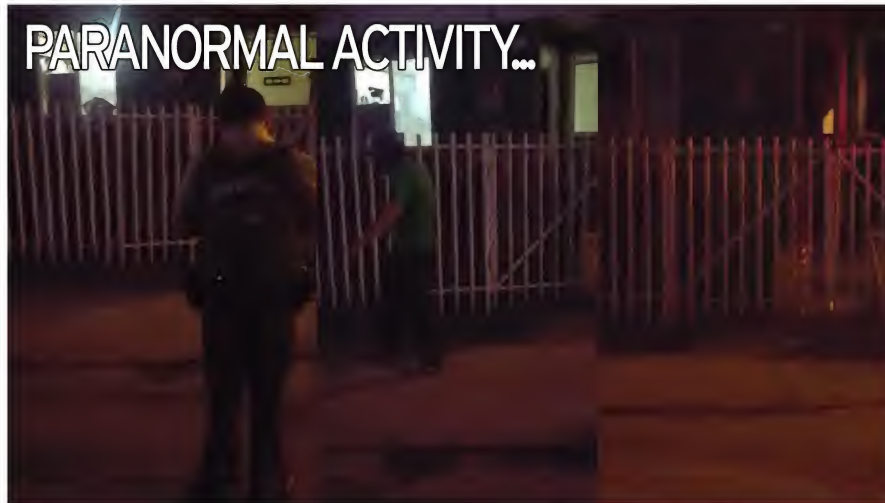
## Ghost 'throws knife' at officers, missing terrified policeman by centimetres

By Keyan Milanian 11:24, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Poltergeist 'throws knife' at officers, missing terrified policeman by centimetres

**A family that had been living there have refused to return, saying they fear for their safety**



Police ran in terror from a house after a 'poltergeist' threw a 15cm knife at them - narrowly missing an officer.

They are understood to have been called to the bungalow after reports of a 'fire hazard' in the building.

But they were not given the warmest of welcomes after apparently being targeted by a ghoul .

Bizarre footage taken outside the house appears to show a plate being thrown and lights being switched on and off.

Police later found burnt mattresses and broken lamp shades scattered through the property in Puerto Montt in Chile.



One of the officers first on the scene said: "Upon entering the home we could see that surprisingly, items fell from the walls.

"Just as I was coming out of the door, a 15-centimeter knife brushed my back. Thank God I had the bulletproof vest, so there was no injury."

Despite a thorough search, nobody was found inside the house.

A family that had been living there have refused to return, saying they fear for their safety.

Arturo Sánchez, an official looking into the incident, told a local radio station on Monday: "This is a situation that is totally paranormal in character.

"A family is being frightened at home because of very strange situations that were happening days ago and that today they have reached their peak."

The goings-on at the house have attracted huge crowds with up to 200 people gathering outside.

Religious heads have been asked to perform spiritual rites at the house in order to drive away the spirits.



*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Ohio store's 70-pound, \$700 popcorn ball returned after theft | Gephardt Daily

gephardtdaily.com



A stolen popcorn ball has been returned to a Ohio popcorn shop.  
Photo: Facebook

March 16 (UPI) — An Ohio popcorn shop said a 70-pound popcorn ball valued at \$700 was returned anonymously four days after it was stolen.

The popcorn ball, created by Chagrin Falls Popcorn Shop for the city's annual New Year's Eve

popcorn ball drop, was stolen from a display spot outside the store at some point Saturday, the store said.

Police were contacted when it was confirmed missing Monday, and someone anonymously returned the ball to the store late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Manager Patti Raymond said store owner, Dewey Forward, found the ball on a bench outside the shop Wednesday morning.

"It appears to be intact, not smashed up," Raymond told Cleveland.com. "There was an uproar on Facebook, people were appalled and amused at the same time."

The popcorn ball was dyed with multicolored stripes by the store for the New Year's celebration. It was auctioned off — as were popcorn balls created in the three preceding years — with proceeds going toward Town Hall renovations, but the winning bidder had not yet taken ownership of the item.

Police have not identified any suspects in the theft.

© 2017 Gephardt Companies

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Popcorn mountains, exploding kernels in popcorn company blaze? - MyNewsLA.com

mynews1a.com

A typical movie theater provides lots of popcorn, but it's unknown if popcorn at this historic Westwood Village Theater comes from the factory that was hit by fire. Photo by John Schreiber.

No, mountains of newly popped popcorn weren't piled up at a popcorn factory Sunday after the facility was hit by an electrical fire.

And while popcorn lovers may imagine artillery-like explosions as millions of corn kernels popped, the reality wasn't as exciting.

In fact, 21 firefighters with the aid of an overhead helicopter rushed to the scene and managed to keep losses only to about \$10,000 in the \$2 million plant, according to authorities.

The blaze at Fasttrak Foods, LLC at 45585 Commerce St. in the desert city of Indio was reported Saturday afternoon, according to Jody Hagemann of the Riverside County Fire Department.

"The first arriving engine company reported light smoke inside a 500,000 sq. ft. commercial structure used for manufacturing popcorn," Hagemann said.

No injuries were reported. The business, according to credit reporting companies, opened in 2015, makes popcorn and popcorn supplies and employs 25 people.

— *Staff and wire reports*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Principal accuses Wisconsin girl of selling sex toys at school

abcactionnews.com

### Student was actually selling a child's toy

Julia Fello

7:26 PM, Mar 21, 2017

10:18 PM, Mar 21, 2017



Student suspended for water snake wiggie principal called a sex toy

RACINE -- A Racine, Wisconsin family says their principal accused their child of selling sex toys at school.

The 12-year-old girl's father has been trying to clear his daughter's name ever since she was suspended for three days from Trinity Lutheran School on Geneva Street in Racine.

Parents may recognize the toy in question. They are called "water snake wiggies." The girl claims she had permission from a teacher to sell the children's toys.

However, the principal at Trinity Lutheran School accused the student of selling what she thought were sex toys.

The school's pastor, David Gehne, said this issue already went before the school board, which sided with the principal.

"We wouldn't discuss the details of any situation regarding one of our children, they're all minors," said Gehne.

"In your wildest imaginations, no adult could possibly view this as a sex toy, this is a water-filled bag," said



Student suspended for water snake wiggie principal called a sex toy

Milt Habeck, the father of the girl.

Habeck adds he does not plan to stop until his daughter's record is cleared. He wrote a blog online that includes witness statements titled: "Vindicate Frances."

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Prosecuting a Poltergeist: The Defamation Trial of the Curé of Cideville

esoterx.com

EsoterX



EsoterX

16 Thursday Feb 2017

Cideville is a quaint farming village in Normandy, France near the only slightly larger town of Yerville, part of the Seine-Inférieure region, thirty-five miles from Havre, and 80 miles northwest of Paris.

Cideville has always been a sleepy little hamlet, but in the winter of 1851, it was at the center of a curious defamation trial involving accusations of sorcery and the predations of an inconsiderate (yet musically talented) poltergeist. This was a rare instance where the accused witch was the plaintiff and the priest was



A hung jury?

the defendant, and ultimately everything got blamed on an angry ghost.

Father Jean Tinel was the Curé of Cideville, a parish priest entrusted with the souls of the good people of the town, and sadly, beginning in November 1850, he found his parsonage beset by disturbances of an inexplicable character centering on two young pupils in his household, Gustave Lemonnier (age 12) and Bunel (age 14). Gustave and Bunel were known to be of amiable dispositions, the sons of respectable parents who had entrusted Tinel with preparing the youths for entry into the priesthood. Beginning in late November 1850 – usually in whatever room the boys were in – strange rapping sounds were heard and objects flew about of their own accord.

**Gustave Lemonnier, the younger of the pupils, aged twelve, said that raps began when he was alone, on November 26th, and continued. He saw knives, blacking-brushes, a roasting spit, and M. Tinel's breviary leave their places and go through the window-panes. All sorts of objects flew about. He was struck in the face by a shoe, a candlestick, and by a black hand which afterwards disappeared up the chimney. A sort of human shape, dressed in a blouse, which appeared to be a spectre, followed him about for a whole fortnight. We learn from another witness that the child said that this spectre was only fifteen inches high. Once an invisible force pulled him by the leg, his comrade sprinkled some holy water, and the force let go; then a child's voice was heard crying, "Pardon, mercy." Notwithstanding all these disquieting events he did not ask to be allowed to go home (Podmore, 1908, p152-153).**

Obviously, such spectral shenanigans were a bit disconcerting, but young Gustave and Bunel were priests-in-training, so it seems like they recognized that one of the job requirements was doing battle with evil spirits. Now, poltergeists have been known to land people in the loony bin or hospital, but



rarely do they wind up in the courtroom. Legal trouble started when Gustave reported that the phantom in the blouse bore a remarkable resemblance to a shepherd swain (swain being a generic term for a “country youth”, which is a little bit odd since Thorel was aged 40 at the time) from nearby Anzouville-l’EsveDal named Felix Thorel, to whom Tinel had introduced the boys. Bunel reported that his compatriot Gustave had a “nervous attack” and lost consciousness immediately after meeting Thorel, making the apparent similarity of the apparition even more suspicious. To make matters worse, rumor had it that Thorel had boasted of his powers as a sorcerer.

This was enough to convince Father Tinel that something was awry at the Circle K. He accused Thorel of producing the bizarre phenomena in his parsonage and tormenting his two pupils. By Tinel’s account Thorel promptly knelt and begged his and the boy’s pardon, but Tinel was not feeling particularly charitable. Priests don’t dig the sorcery thing. Tinel demanded that Thorel’s employer (unsurprisingly named Mr. Pain) dismiss the shepherd. Not entirely satisfied that Thorel had been thoroughly reprimanded, Tinel beat him with a stick “to the effusion of blood”. Poor Thorel was now accused of sorcerous nefariousness, bloody, and unemployed. This was mid-19th Century France, so they weren’t burning witches anymore and the occasional beating of the underclass was nothing to write home about. What you really didn’t want was to be unemployed and indigent in Normandy. “Thereupon Thorel, having lost his place as shepherd in consequence of such suspicions, brought suit for defamation of character against the curate, laying the damages at twelve hundred francs. The trial was commenced before the justice of the peace of Yerville on the 7th of January, 1851” (Owen, 1860, p272). And it was at this trial that the bizarre details of the poltergeist’s behavior were described and written down for all posterity in the records of the court, including a parade of notable and respected witness to the strange goings on in the Tinel household. Tinel and his students were deposed, outlining the character of the poltergeist activity after the initial rappings.

**On Tuesday, the 26th of November, 1850, as the two children were at work in one of the rooms in the upper story of the parsonage, about five o’clock in the afternoon, they heard knockings, resembling light blows of a hammer, on the wainscoting of the apartment. These knockings were continued daily throughout the week, at the same hour of the afternoon. On the next Sunday, the 1st of December, the blows commenced at mid-day; and it was on that day that the curate first thought of addressing them. He said, “Strike louder!” Thereupon the blows were repeated more loudly. They continued thus all that day. On Monday, December 2, the elder of the two boys said to the knockings, “Beat time to the tune of Maitre Corbeau,” and they immediately obeyed. The next day, Tuesday, December 3, the boy having related the above circumstances to M. Tinel, he, (Tinel,) being much astonished, resolved to try, and said, “Play us Maitre Corbeau,” and the knockings obeyed. The afternoon of that day, the knockings became so loud and violent that a table in the apartment moved somewhat, and the noise was so great that one could hardly stay in the room. Later in the same afternoon, the table moved from its place three times. The curate’s sister, after assuring herself that the children had not moved it, replaced it; but twice it followed her back again. The noises continued, with violence, all that week (Owen, 1860, p272).**

It’s rare to find a poltergeist that will take requests from your playlist, and if it wasn’t for the various ghostly assaults that followed, it might have just been an intriguing novelty. Alas, poltergeists are temperamental critters, and the earnestness with which it made its presence known escalated. Witnesses emerged to attest to the ensuing nastiness that plagued Father Tinel’s humble home. A M. de Bagnel testified to hearing particular requested tunes beaten by the rappings, and that he could in no way discern the origin. Another local notable named August Huet, a neighboring proprietor along with the Curate of Limsey and another gentleman, heard similar rappings and were

convinced the young boys could not have produced the sounds themselves. The poltergeist obligingly beat time to the tune of *Au Claire de la Lune* upon request. The Mayor of Cideville reported he watched as a set of fireplace tongs and a shovel flew across the room. The Curate of Saussay testified that upon visiting Tinel's parsonage he saw hammers and bread move by themselves in manners he could not explain, emphasizing that in regards to the veracity of his testimony that he would *Je le signerais de mon sang* ("sign it with his own blood"). A local aristocrat, the Marquis de Mirville, having heard of the disturbances, resolved to investigate them. Initially he heard scratchings and rappings, but undaunted he resolved to experiment, and described his experience to the court. The transcripts of the testimony of the Marquis de Mirville outline his findings.

**Last Wednesday I went to the Presbytery of Cideville and said to the 'cause,' "When you wish to reply affirmatively rap once; when you wish to reply negatively rap twice."** Immediately a rap was heard. **"Then you will be able to tell me how many letters there are in my name"** Eight raps were heard, the last more distinct than the others, apparently to make one understand that it was the last. **"My baptismal name now?"** Reply, five raps. **"And now my fore-name which figures on the register of the Civil List, and which no one has hitherto called me by."** Immediately, seven raps; **"and the names of my children, first the eldest;"** Five raps,—quite correct, she is called Aline. **"That of the youngest?"** Nine raps, a mistake, immediately rectified, for seven raps were struck. She is called Blanche. **"Now let us pass to my age; strike as many raps as I have years."** Instantly the raps succeeded each other with such rapidity that I was obliged to stop them in order to count them, and I demanded more slowness; forty-eight raps were then heard very distinctly, the forty-eighth being more accentuated than the others. **"That is not all. How many months do you reckon between the first of January of this year, and the moment I shall be forty-nine?"** Three very loud raps and one faint one followed. **"What does the faint one mean? Probably half a month?"** One rap. **"Good! But it is not finished. How many days now between that half month and my birthday?"** Nine raps, the last being more accentuated. Perfectly correct, I shall be forty-nine on the 24th of April of this year..." **Let us pass on to the place of my abode. How many letters are there in its name?"** Eight raps; **"and in the name of my Commune? Be careful not to make the usual mistake."** Ten raps were heard. Now I live in the Commune of Gomerville, the name of which is often written with two m's, a mistake not made by the 'cause.' It was demonstrated to me by this, that I had to do with an old acquaintance—I hope not a friend. **"Let us pass to music; you are said to be a musician, the other day you sang the first part of Rossini's Stabat, they say; since you know the first part you ought to know the second part, the bass part *Pro peccatis suae gentis*; let me hear it."** Instantly the mysterious agent rapped the rhythm of the first two bars correctly enough, but in the third committed an irregularity which slightly spoiled the rhythm. On my remarking this, it began again, corrected the mistake, and the passage was recognisable. Two or three popular airs, such as, *J'ai du bon Tabac*, *Maitre Corbeau*, etc...were articulated rapidly and without any mistake. The other pieces from the Italian repertoire which I demanded, were perfectly unknown to it. **"Come,"** I said to it, **"you are a poor dilettante. Now follow me if you can."** I then hummed a waltz from *Guillaume Tell*. It listened at first without doing anything; then followed me exactly while I sang it; and several times during the morning, when we were no longer thinking of it, it came back to the same piece and tried to execute it alone (Lang, 1904, p458-459).

Personally, I think the Marquis' expectation for the musical acumen of dead guy were overly optimistic, and frankly, were I a specter, I would probably have thrown something at him for his

snarky commentary, but one can only expect the merest modicum of social restraint from a 19th Century French aristocrat. They were just getting over the Revolution after all. Over a dozen additional witnesses were called, and swore to either experiencing the musical machinations of the poltergeist, objects inexplicably flying about the parsonage, or Tinel's angry encounter with Felix Thorel. Final judgement was rendered on February 15th, 1851, the learned judge concluding that the extraordinary phenomena at the Presbytery of Cideville "remain unknown". This is of course, a rather irritating official judgement and didn't really help Thorel. As Thorel himself had reportedly taken credit for sorcerous activities that caused the poltergeist activity at Tinel's parsonage, as well as showing contrition before witnesses on two occasions, the court concluded that the defamation suit was frivolous. Thorel was ordered to pay six Francs in court costs and sent packing. Meanwhile, there was still a poltergeist to deal with. Tinel's superiors in the church ordered the two young students to be removed and situated with another teacher, and immediately the poltergeist activity in the Tinel parsonage ceased.

There are a few lessons here. First, don't sue for libel when you've gone around singing your own praises as a powerful sorcerer. Even if you aren't responsible for local occult activity, you'll probably be blamed for it. Second, music does seem to soothe the savage beast and unfortunately few people have tried the musical approach to communicating with a poltergeist. Third, poltergeist activity always spirals into throwing stuff. Or getting sucked into a television. Or some such unsavory end. Sure, maybe it's entertaining at first, but inevitably dealing with the angry spirits involves projectiles. I'm sure there is some sort of obscure fourth lesson about not being a peasant in Normandy. There's also a lesson here for poltergeists as well, and it comes from Aristotle, who said, "Anybody can become angry – that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody's power and is not easy". Evidently, we don't get any better at it when we're dead.

## References

- Blewett, Lee. "Psychic Phenomena and the Law". Harvard Law Review Association, and Harvard Law Review Publishing Association. Harvard Law Review v34. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Law Review Pub. Association, 1921.
- Holms, A. Campbell. The Facts of Psychic Science and Philosophy. Jamaica, N.Y.: Occult Press, 1927.
- Lang, Andrew, 1844-1912. Cock Lane and Common-sense. London: Longmans, Green, 1896.
- Lang, Andrew, 1844-1912. "The Poltergeist at Cideville". Society for Psychical Research (Great Britain). Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research v18. London: Trübner and Co., 1904.
- Owen, Robert Dale, 1801-1877. Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1860.
- Podmore, Frank, 1856-1910. The Naturalisation of the Supernatural. New York: G.P. Putnam's sons, 1908.
- Spence, Lewis, 1874-1955. An Encyclopædia of Occultism: a Compendium of Information On the Occult Sciences, Occult Personalities, Psychic Science, Magic, Demonology, Spiritism And Mysticism. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1920.
- Spence, Lewis, 1874-1955. "The Poltergeist and His Critics". Rider's Review v29. London, 1919.
- Still, Alfred, 1869-. Borderlands of Science. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950.

---

*Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.*



## Public forces Russian city to keep eternal flame lit - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere...

•

8 March 2017



Prodvizheniye TV

Officials in the Russian city of Omsk have backed down on plans to turn off the eternal flame at the local war memorial after a public outcry.

A passerby noticed on Tuesday that the flame had gone out, and took to social media to ask whether it was an accident, repairs, or perhaps the gas had been cut off, the local NGS news site reports.

*The not-so-eternal flame wasn't burning when a local TV crew visited*

The memorial was inaugurated less than two years ago to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two. It was financed by the Omsk veterans association, and the flame was lit with a torch flown directly from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow. According to the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, the local authorities promised at the inaugural ceremony that the eternal flame would burn constantly.

But in January the city economy department took over management of the flame from the war veterans group and decided they didn't have the 500,000 roubles (\$8,600; £7,000) to keep it on all year round.

On Tuesday, an official announced it would only be lit on 17 military public holidays, which led to an outcry from the public, local Prodvizheniye TV channel reports. Veterans association leader Yevgeny Belov said he was "profoundly offended" by the decision, as honouring the memory of the war dead at the eternal flame was "sacred".

The authorities backed down within hours, with Mayor Vyacheslav Dvorakovsky insisting that it was cut off only because of "technical problems. Despite the U-turn, Komsomolskaya Pravda says some local people are finding it hard to get over the decision "to cut back on the holiest of holies - our memory".

*Image copyright Kanal 12*

## This Mustachioed Pup Just Joined A Franciscan Monastery

huffingtonpost.com

Welcome to the brotherhood, Friar Bigotón.

By Carla Herreria



One Franciscan monastery just got way more adorable thanks to its newest inductee, a stray dog named Carmelo.

The Franciscan monastery of Cochabamba, Bolivia recently welcomed Carmelo into their brotherhood and bestowed upon him a formal title: Friar Bigotón, which in English means Friar Mustache.

The new brother even received a puppy-sized habit to wear around the monastery, because he's just that official.

Photos posted to Facebook by Franciscan Kasper Mariusz Kaproń show the furry friar living a happy life in a lush Bolivian sanctuary with more than a

dozen human friars.

Sometimes, Carmelo can be found "preaching to the fish," Kaproń wrote in a Facebook album featuring the mustachioed friar. Surrounded by fountains, gardens and friendly faces, Carmelo looks right at home at the Bolivian monastery.

"His life is all about playing and running," friar Jorge Fernandez told animal welfare site The Dodo. "Here, all of the brothers love him very much. He is a creature of God."

The Franciscan brothers adopted Carmelo through a local animal rescue group named Frías Proyecto Narices (Project Cold Nose), who announced the pup's induction last week.

The rescue group hopes Carmelo's adoption story will inspire other churches to welcome stray animals into their communities, which, in turn, would inspire parishioners to adopt dogs as well, the rescue group wrote on Facebook.

Franciscan friars typically live following the rules and values of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Their days usually revolve around service and prayer.

Now, at the Franciscan monastery of Cochabamba, friars can add playing with Carmelo to their list of daily tasks.

What does Friar Bigotón's new life look like? Check out Frías Proyecto Narices's album below.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## The quest for the Loch Ness Monster

Wednesday 2nd November 2016

historyextra.com



Their critics told them “to give up eels and turn to God”. Yet, from the 1930s,



that didn't stop a number of world-renowned scientists embarking on a hunt for Nessie, as Gareth Williams relates...

*This article was first published in the December 2015 issue of BBC History Magazine*



In July 1960, Professor Sir Alister Hardy made his annual research trip to the west coast of Scotland. Hardy had all the trappings of a top-flight scientist: the chair of zoology at Oxford, fellowship of the Royal Society and an international reputation as an expert on plankton.

That summer, however, another aquatic life form was on Hardy's mind. It took him on a lengthy diversion to inspect a black and

white photograph which a bank manager called Peter Macnab had taken five years earlier. This showed two black humps heading across smooth water towards a ruined tower on a promontory. The ruin was unmistakably Castle Urquhart, on the western shore of Scotland's largest lake, and Macnab's photo was one of the classic images of the Loch Ness monster. Previously sceptical, Hardy was converted on the spot by what he regarded as “the strongest evidence yet” for the creature.

The monster was widely believed to be a 20 to 50ft descendant of the plesiosaurs, marine reptiles that – according to conventional wisdom – had died out with the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The notion seemed exceedingly unlikely (one expert put the odds at 17 million to one against) but had taken hold during the 1930s, following reports of long-necked, hump-backed creatures in the loch and occasionally on its shores.

In April 1934, London gynaecologist Dr RK Wilson had taken a dramatic photograph of a long, curved neck ending in a small head. Published in newspapers around the world, the ‘Surgeon's Photograph’ transformed millions into believers in the monster and became one of the most instantly recognisable images of the 20th century.





*The 'Surgeon's Photo', taken in 1934, was to become "one of the most instantly recognisable images of the 20th century". (© Getty)*

During the Second World War, the monster kept a low profile but was exploited as a propaganda weapon by both sides. In 1940, the British authorities sent reassurances to Allied prisoners of war that the monster remained in good health, so confounding Axis claims that it had been killed in a German bombing raid.

Interest in the monster surged during the 1950s, with many sightings and photographs, and the publication of Constance Whyte's *More Than a Legend*. Whyte catalogued over 80 sightings and concluded that the monster was a plesiosaur that had been protected in the land-locked niche of Loch Ness.

Whyte's book came out at a time when public imagination was being fired by pioneering television programmes on natural history, such as Peter Scott's *Look* and David Attenborough's *Zoo Quest*. These often featured exotic species whose existence had been unsuspected or denied, such as the 60ft whale shark and the Komodo Dragon, a 12ft monitor lizard which Attenborough filmed on a remote Indonesian Island. Lurking in the wings was the coelacanth, a primitive fish that had been pronounced extinct for 60 million years until one was caught alive off the South African coast in 1938. With all this in mind, many accepted that a plesiosaur could have survived in a deep and unexplored Scottish loch with notoriously peat-clouded water.

However, no hard evidence of the monster – bones, a shred of tissue, let alone a live specimen – had ever been collected. The zoological establishment had been highly sceptical from the start, dismissing sightings as optical illusions, hallucinations, hoaxes or misidentified natural phenomena.



*Peter Macnab's 1955 picture of two black humps approaching Castle Urquhart. (© Topfoto)*

### **Young and headstrong**

The Natural History Museum in London took an especially robust anti-monster line. In October 1959, the museum's trustees issued a memo forbidding all staff from investigating the "Loch Ness phenomenon". The trustees' warning was directed mainly at Dr Denys Tucker, the young and headstrong curator of fishes. Tucker, an expert on

the migration of eels, was a rising star until an afternoon in March 1959, when he watched a large humped animal swimming in Loch Ness. He decided that the monster was a long-necked plesiosaur, *Elasmosaurus* – the same species later identified by Tim Dinsdale, an aeronautical engineer whose cine film of a humped object in the loch caused a sensation when it was shown on BBC's *Panorama* in June 1960.

Defying the trustees, Tucker began lecturing about “the plesiosaur in Loch Ness” at scientific meetings in London and Cambridge. The trustees included the archbishop of Canterbury, who advised Tucker to renounce his belief in the monster and to “give up eels and turn to God”. When Tucker refused, the trustees sacked him and barred him from the museum. Their decision was upheld despite the intervention of Tucker’s MP and a debate in the House of Commons.

Denys Tucker was not the only professional scientist to lose his job because he pursued the monster. Roy Mackal, assistant professor in biochemistry at Chicago University, was knocked off a promising career after visiting Loch Ness in September 1965. He was bowled over by the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau (LNPIB), a military-style operation staffed by dozens of volunteers, united in their determination to find the monster. The LNPIB had been founded in 1961 by David James, MP for Brighton and famous for a daring escape from a German prisoner of war camp, and Peter Scott, the celebrated ornithologist, painter, broadcaster and president of the World Wildlife Fund. The LNPIB’s search strategy included RAF-surplus searchlights, massive photoreconnaissance telephoto lenses, a bright yellow mini-submarine, underwater sonar sweeps and the detonation of gelignite charges to force monsters to the surface.



*Roy Mackal's Nessie obsession cost him his academic tenure at Chicago University. (© University of Chicago Photographic Archive, [apf1-04046], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)*

When Mackal arrived, the LNPIB had found nothing conclusive and was running out of money. Mackal promptly raised funds in Chicago, was appointed the LNPIB’s scientific director and drew up ‘Operation Bootstrap’, which included biopsy harpoons and a small monster-trap made of chicken wire.

Operation Bootstrap failed, but that didn’t dampen Mackal’s conviction that the monster was a giant amphibian resembling the extinct Eogyrinus. His book, *The Monsters of Loch Ness* (1976), based around an analysis of almost 400 sightings, cine films and photographs, established him as a world authority in cryptozoology (the study of animals whose existence remains unproven). Chicago University was unimpressed and withdrew Mackal’s academic tenure.

The LNPIB folded in 1972, having obtained no hard evidence of the monster. However, its activities attracted the attention of the Academy of Applied Science (AAS), near Boston. Its president was Robert Rines, a lawyer who had filed patents for high-resolution radar during the war. Also intrigued was Dr Harold ‘Doc’ Edgerton, professor of electronic engineering at MIT and inventor of the ‘strobe’ flash, which had revolutionised underwater photography.

Rines first visited Loch Ness in autumn 1970, armed with sophisticated sonar scanners, an assortment of hormonal attractants and tape recordings of various sea creatures mating. He logged some tantalising sonar contacts, and his determination to find the monster was strengthened the following summer when he and his wife watched a 20ft humped animal ploughing through the water, half a mile offshore.

*Members of a Loch Ness monster investigation team scan the waters in August 1968. (© Getty)*



In August 1972, Rines' underwater camera (coupled to an Edgerton strobe flash) captured an image even more extraordinary than the 'Surgeon's Photograph'. After computer enhancement to remove the 'fog' of suspended peat particles, it showed a clean-cut, diamond-shaped flipper, apparently attached to a rough-surfaced body. Various zoological experts stated it to be the right rear appendage of a large, unknown aquatic animal.

Three years later, Rines' underwater camera took two more enigmatic photographs that he believed showed the body (drawn out into a long, graceful neck) and

bizarre 'gargoyle' face of a plesiosaur-like creature.

Rines' photographs converted Peter Scott into a true believer. Scott also viewed the creature as an icon for his mission to save endangered species. He concocted a formal scientific name for it – *Nessiteras rhombopteryx*, meaning 'the wonder from Ness with the diamond-shaped fin' – and painted *Courtship in Loch Ness*, a haunting picture of two monsters cruising beneath the surface.

Another convert was Dr David Davies, editor of *Nature*, the world's most prestigious scientific journal. On 11 December 1975, *Nature* carried a paper by Scott and Rines entitled 'Naming the Loch Ness Monster' – and Rines' flipper photograph filled the cover.



*A fleet of 20 boats prepares to carry out a sonar sweep of Loch Ness as part of Operation Deepscan in 1987. (© Topfoto)*

Any impression that the scientific establishment was finally taking the monster seriously was short-lived. Irate scientists bombarded Davies' office with complaints that *Nature* had debased British science by publishing such nonsense. Just as damning was the revelation that *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* is an anagram of 'Monster hoax

by Sir Peter S' – something that Scott always insisted was an unfortunate coincidence.

That was 40 years ago. Since then, serious doubts have been raised about the images taken by Wilson, Macnab, Dinsdale and Rines, while comprehensive sonar sweeps and another 25 AAS expeditions have found no conclusive evidence of the monster.

Could Loch Ness have harboured a large species unknown to science? By autumn 1960, Sir Alister Hardy had reverted to scepticism, but Peter Scott and Roy Mackal remained believers for the rest of their lives. Robert Rines kept his faith until 2008, when his 30th visit to Loch Ness persuaded him that the creatures had been killed off by climate change. And today, a few minutes spent surfing the internet will confirm that opinion is still divided, just as it has been for decades.

## Searching for Nessie



**28 April 1933**

John and Aldie Mackay report a large whale-like animal near Abriachan Pier

**17 October 1933**

Philip Stalker writes an article about the Loch Ness monster for *The Scotsman*, entitled 'The Plesiosaurus Theory'

**19 April 1934**

RK Wilson takes the iconic 'Surgeon's Photograph' at Loch Ness

**29 July 1955**

Peter Macnab photographs a 50ft, two-humped animal in Urquhart Bay

**13 June 1960**

Tim Dinsdale's film of a single-humped object is shown on BBC TV's *Panorama*

**31 July 1960**

Denys Tucker is sacked by the Natural History Museum for refusing to retract his belief in the Loch Ness monster

**October 1962**

The first Loch Ness Phenomenon Investigation Bureau expedition

**8 August 1972**

The underwater 'flipper' photograph (below) is taken in Urquhart Bay by Robert Rines and the Academy of Applied Science

**11 December 1975**

*Nature* publishes 'Naming the Loch Ness Monster' by Peter Scott and Robert Rines

**1987**

Operation Deepscan, a sonar sweep of the Loch, makes no conclusive findings; neither does Project Urquhart, conducted in 1992

**2008**

Robert Rines concludes that Nessie has been killed off by climate change

**Gareth Williams is emeritus professor of medicine at the University of Bristol, and an expert on the history of science.**

History Extra magazine is owned and published by Immediate Media Company Limited.

BBC History magazine is published by Immediate Media Company Limited under licence from BBC Worldwide, which helps fund new BBC programmes.

© Immediate Media Company Ltd. 2017

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Rare book worth £1,500 found in Strood recycling bin

*A charity shop boss was stunned to find a book worth £1,500 in a recycling bin.*

07 January 2017

kentonline.co.uk

# KentOnline

edition of *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess.

Kim West, manager of Strood Community Project's shop in the High Street, was sorting books into boxes when she came across a first

The cult classic was published in 1962 and follows the story of 15-year-old Alex, who leads his gang on a night of violence before he is put in prison.

Kim said: "I was sorting through the books for recycling – taking them out of plastic bags and putting them into boxes –when I found it.

"I'm from that era so I opened the cover and saw it said it was a first edition. It was a real surprise. It would have gone to pulp.

"I thought we'd get a couple of hundred for it so it was a shock when I was told that it's worth between £1,000 and £1,500."

Kim added it was not the first time she had found something rare when going through donations.

"We had a chair dumped outside the old store," she said.

"It had a metal frame and a leather seat with bits of rust on it. I thought we could sell it for about £15. I thought it looked a bit 70s.

"My colleague went away for the weekend and had seen a home magazine displaying one of these chairs.

"We found three little letters in the fabric – it had been made by an Italian designer. We got £300 for it. I've got loads of stories like that."

The book is now with Forum Auctions in London and is due to be sold in March.

Max Hasler, from the company, said as the copy had a dust jacket it was worth more than other copies.

He said: "With first editions the dust jacket accounts for about 80% of the value.

"We've estimated this copy at around £1,500 but we'd expect it to make more on the day given that it is such a good copy.

"This book isn't particularly rare, but it's the condition that people will pay a lot for.

"This is very much a collectors' item, which is why it makes more than an average copy would do."

"I thought we'd get a couple of hundred for it so it was a shock when I was told that it's worth between £1,000 and £1,500" - Kim West

Mr Hasler added Forum Auctions takes in a lot of books from charities.

He said: "People bought books like these at the time, read them once and stuck them on shelves. As such we can get them in really good condition.

"People find extraordinary things – a lot of charities now have book specialists who volunteer."

Strood Community Project provides support to the disadvantage in the community, by giving advice and skills support to those looking to enter work.

It runs adult literacy and numeracy classes, computer skills training, confidence courses and other workshops.

- 

07/01/2017 21:11:32

LocaltoDartford.com wrote:

Looks like the sort of thing we regularly use to get our fire going.

Most of our stuff is on a tablet now we don't use books

and frequently buy them just to burn.

-11

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

07/01/2017 19:43:10

Just Me wrote:

PERHAPS...

They can put this money towards their insurance to get the shop window fixed!!!

-9

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

07/01/2017 11:27:53

Prince Alexis wrote:

You also get a lot of people go into charity shops, looking for items the staff don't know the value of. They see something for £2 they know could be worth £200. Not too many people let the staff know they're under charging. We did have a woman buy a painting for £10 once which she had evaluated on a whim and turned up with a few hundred for it. She felt guilty so ended up coming back and donating a nice percentage back to the charity.

+27

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

07/01/2017 08:22:01

libbysasha67 wrote:

Books donated - yes , however , see if there was any info about the person that put them in the recycle bin . They could 'possibly' do with the money and/ or they could reward the shop with letting them know .

Thumbs down .



-32 2 Replies

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

- 

07/01/2017 10:04:08

Angel78 wrote:

I have to be honest i dont understand all the thumbs down. Ok so someone donates it... yea ok. But clearly not knowing its worth... so had that same person also donated a old tacky cardboard jewellery box but inside the donater didnt realise grandmas antique diamond ring that had been lost was inside. Finding out it is worth thousands you just rub you're hands and say thank you???

+23 1 Reply

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

- 

07/01/2017 11:06:37

tideyd01 wrote:

To be fair, it also works the other way when people find treasures at charity shops that have not been recognised for what they are. There have been a number of instances where this has happened and the lucky finder has made a donation back to the charity shop or even gone 50:50 on the profit.

+9

ReplyReport Abuse

- 

07/01/2017 11:17:52

Prince Alexis wrote:

This is not always the case. As someone who works in a charity shop, and deals with books, I've had people come in, donating books they know fair well can fetch a high price. Not just books, clothing as well. They tell me it's worth a few hundred. One guy came in and donated a whole bunch of Folio Society books, a few of those sold for quite a bit.

Also, it's one of the shop volunteers who probably put it in the recycling bin. This happens a lot where I work. We tend to put out the more 'modern, quick selling novels'. Old books like this are almost often put in the recycle sack due to the lack of interest for the, and 90% of the time, the person that does it has no idea of the value. So it may have been known by the donator it was worth a lot, but the employee who sorted it didn't. I can't even think of how much money has been lost because of staff not knowing an items value. A few thousand a year, I assure you! Especially with the vintage 'junk' items a lot of people wouldn't know what it is.

+18

ReplyReport Abuse

© KM Group 2017

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Rare shark normally found in the tropics discovered on UK coastline

By Mirror.co.uk 15:33, 2 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**The Crocodile Shark was discovered on a beach at Hope Cove near Plymouth, Devon and reported to experts at the National Marine Aquarium**



A rare species of shark usually found in the tropics has been found on the UK coastline for the first time in recorded history.

The animal was discovered on a beach at Hope Cove near Plymouth, Devon and reported to experts at the National Marine Aquarium who believe it is a Crocodile Shark usually found in tropical waters all around the globe.

The deceased shark was spotted washed up on the beach by Steven Greenfields who was

out walking with his family.

Steven said: "We regularly visit this beach and have never seen anything like this before.

"My whole family was stunned as the animal had really unusual features but was unmistakably a shark.

"I have experience with sharks whilst swimming and diving overseas but despite a fair amount of fishing and swimming in the UK all my life, have never seen any shark in UK waters other than dogfish.

"Because it was so unusual we consulted our local aquarium to confirm what species it was."

After thorough examination of the shark's physical traits it is believed that the animal is a Crocodile Shark, making it the first of its kind to be found in the UK.

James Wright, Curator at the National Marine Aquarium, said: "On first inspection of the photos we thought the animal could be a juvenile Porbeagle Shark which is found in UK waters.

"However we identified numerous traits which suggested it was not any shark usually recorded in UK waters.

"Exploring our network of contacts led to successful identification by Marc Dando who is a local professional wildlife artist, whose work can be seen at the aquarium.

"This species has never been recorded in the UK before as it is normally found in deep waters during the day in tropical climates such as Brazil and Australia then coming shallower at night to feed.

"It is likely to be an isolated incident but there have been similar stranding incidents in South Africa.

"This time of year though UK waters are at their coldest so this occurrence is very unusual."

“With the Crocodile Shark accustomed to much warmer waters travelling so far and reaching colder waters would have caused a shock to its system and account for the cause of death.

“We would urge the public to share any other unusual sightings with us or The Shark Trust so we can monitor any trends.”

Paul Cox, Managing Director of The Shark Trust, added: “This tiny shark with spiky teeth - hence the name - is the smallest of the Mackerel Sharks the group that includes the Great White and our own Porbeagle and Mako sharks.

“They are relatively uncommon and the UK is well outside the shark’s usual range so it’s a really interesting find.

“Currently listed as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Crocodile Shark is too small to be valuable in fisheries.

“However, they are caught, like many other sharks, as bycatch in high seas fisheries which will likely impact on their future status.

“For all sharks, but especially the less common ones, any information that we can get is useful so it’s great that this one has been reported and identified.”

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## The Raven Stone Spell - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

[strangehistory.net](http://strangehistory.net)

The outlandish, the anomalous and the curious from the last five thousand years

*Author: Beach Combing | in : Ancient, Medieval, Modern , [trackback](#)*

**Location:** tradition found in the Germanic regions of Continental Europe and Scandinavia, and also in parts of Britain.

**Aim:** The collection of the raven stone (*korp-sten* in Scandinavia, Lloyd 1854, 331) that will render the owner invisible, though note that the stone is also credited with bringing luck and curing humans and cattle of diseases: '[The stone] was in great repute for healing tumours, swellings, and sores, and also for curing distempers in cattle, horses, and sheep' (Saxby 1893, 24-5).

**Ingredients:** A raven's nest, a stout pair of climbing shoes.

### Method

Spell from Germany

- (i) Find a tree in which ravens nest (Swainson 1886, 91), taking care, first, to establish that both ravens are older than a hundred years and that they have young in the nest.
- (ii) Climb the tree and kill one of the young (male, older than six weeks), climbing down quickly before the parents return.
- (iii) The bereft parent will fly off and get a raven's stone from the sea; or the raven will cough up the raven stone that it has hidden in its body. He or she will bring the stone and put it on or into the dead fledgling to bring it back to life.
- (iv) Climb the tree again and take the stone from the nest getting away as quickly as possible.
- (v) Opinions differ as to whether you must hold or swallow the stone to become invisible. Suggest trial and error.

Spell from the Tyrol (Swainson 1886, 91)

- (i) Take a raven's egg from a nest.
- (ii) Boil the egg until is hard.
- (iii) Replace the egg and a parent will bring the raven stone from the sea (to revive the egg?)

### Dangers

Ravens can be aggressive, particularly while protecting their young...

### Antiquity

The wide spread of references suggests that this spell dates back beyond the Middle Ages and into Germanic antiquity. However, the earliest reference found so far relates to a fourteenth-century Earl

of Arundel who was offered a raven stone (Costello 1844, 583): note that the story is unlikely to be contemporary. There is a more certain reference to 'an article of glamourie which [an ancestor] took out of a Corbie's nest in the Corbie Heugh' for Berwickshire in 1730 (Surgeon 1856, 23).

## Help

Been looking for an elusive reference to this custom in Iceland but had no luck: **there are just a few 19C asides** drbeachcombing AT yahoo DOT com

For references and explanation of the project and tag index: Beach's Book of Shadows.

12 Feb 2017: Bruce T 'Did you consider the obvious, there are no trees to amount to anything Iceland? What trees that were originally there would be considered tallish maritime and subarctic scrub forest at best. That being said, try looking for similar tales among the Native peoples of Labrador where the people of Greenland and Iceland would sometimes travel for wood. The raven is just as important a mythological beast in the north of NA as it is in the same regions of Europe and Asia. The Canadians and the Scandinavians are positively over the moon when it comes to finding links between the Norse and Natives in Maritime and Arctic Canada. Discover a correlation between the two in a raven stone tale and you could likely find yourself with the resources to study trolls to your hearts delight.'

Beach replies: I've given the German version, I suspect all regions, and probably most parishes had their own twist. Perhaps in Iceland you had to climb cliffs! Apparently ravens rarely breed in Iceland, though, which would be more of a problem!

- © 2017 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## A Real Protester Gives Mayor A Pepsi. It Didn't End Well.

[huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)


Left: Kendall Jenner hands a police officer a Pepsi in the now-canceled commercial. Right: A protester in Portland attempts to hand the mayor a can of Pepsi, too.

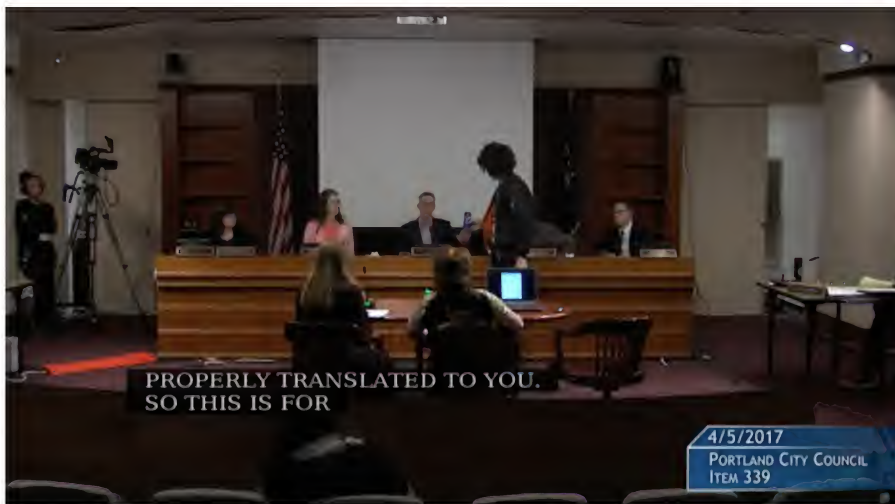
Oh no. Someone tried to make the Pepsi revolution a real thing.

A city council meeting in Portland, Oregon, was interrupted Wednesday morning by a protester who rushed up to the mayor, pulled a can of Pepsi from his jacket and handed it to him.

“What I realized is that the language of resistance has not been properly translated,” the protester told council members before approaching Mayor Ted Wheeler. “So this is for you.”

“Whoa, whoa, whoa,” the mayor said nervously. “Not a good move! Don’t do that again. Not a smart move.”

The protester then pulled another soda from his jacket, snapped it open and raised his can to the mayor. Two police officers quickly intervened and escorted the man away, according to The Oregonian.



The stunt was reminiscent of Pepsi’s recent tone-deaf commercial in which Kendall Jenner solves police-on-protester brutality by offering a can of the soda to a cop. Much like Jenner’s ad, which Pepsi pulled from YouTube on Wednesday and issued an apology, the real-life Portland protester’s stunt made everyone very uncomfortable.

Enrique testified before the council during a hearing on the subject of abandoned boats. But instead of talking about dirty docks, he

A protester approaches Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler with a can of Pepsi. Two police officers escort the man away. A still from Pepsi’s controversial ad, where Kendall Jenner somehow solves police brutality by handing a police officer a can of Pepsi. The ad was pulled shortly after it debuted.

commented about unruly citizens at city council meetings.

“It made me kind of wonder,” Enrique told the council. “Like, how can someone just endure people coming and berating you every week and everyone gets mad and you say I’m signing the ordinance anyway?”

Aside from the strange interruption, Wednesday’s city council meeting was calmer than some other recent meetings, The Oregonian reported. Activists have disrupted and shut down city council meetings over the past few months in protest of issues that have included homelessness and police brutality.





Wheeler implemented new rules last week to prevent disruptive behavior, which included barring protesters from meetings, enforcing the meeting room's 182-person capacity and threatening arrests for those who refuse to leave once they are ejected.

Watch Enrique's Pepsi stunt at the 2:51:00 mark in the video below.

*A protester approaches Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler with a can of Pepsi. Two police officers escort the man away. A still from Pepsi's controversial ad, where Kendall Jenner somehow solves police brutality by handing a police officer a can of Pepsi. The ad was pulled shortly after it debuted.*



*A protester approaches Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler with a can of Pepsi. Two police officers escort the man away. A still from Pepsi's controversial ad, where Kendall Jenner somehow solves police brutality by handing a police officer a can of Pepsi. The ad was pulled shortly after it debuted.*

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Off Beat: Whether driving cars or cattle, some people are road hogs

columbian.com

### On the Oregon Trail in 1853, 'lawless set' made for rough ride



Amelia Stewart Knight (Clark County Historical Museum)

By Tom Vogt, Columbian Science, Military & History Reporter

Published: March 27, 2017, 6:04 AM

Road rage? In 1853?

Traffic congestion is a fact of life in Clark County, and frustrated motorists can find themselves exchanging profanities (and worse) with inconsiderate drivers.

It's not a new phenomenon. An incident that sounds pretty familiar was described a while back by a Camas resident.

Actually, Amelia Stewart Knight and her family were on the Oregon Trail 164 years ago, on their way to Clark County.

The diary she kept from April 9 to Sept. 17, 1853, will be part of a daylong history symposium Saturday at Vancouver's Heathman Lodge. (We will have a story about the Knight family and the symposium this week; people can find information at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).)

While firearms are a familiar element in our Western lore, Knight's only reference to guns was in her entry for May 30. Their wagons were slowed by hundreds of head of cattle, and her husband, Joel, wanted to speed things up.

"We either had to stay poking behind them in the dust or hurry up and drive past them," she wrote.

The cattlemen did not want to give up their lead spot on the trail.

#### Drawing their guns

"The drovers threatened to drive their cattle over you if you attempted to pass them. They even took out their pistols," she wrote. As a drover pointed his pistol at one of their hired men, Joel Knight said, "'Boys, follow me,' and he drove our team out of the road entirely," she wrote. "The rest of the boys followed with their teams and the rest of the stock. I had a rather rough ride, to be sure, but I was glad to get away from such a lawless set.

"We left some swearing men behind us. We drove a good ways ahead and stopped to rest the cattle and eat some dinner. While we were eating we saw them coming. All hands jumped for their teams, saying they had earned the road too dearly to let them pass again, and in a few moments we were all on the go again."

Off Beat lets members of The Columbian news team step back from our newspaper beats to write the story behind the story, fill in the story or just tell a story.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

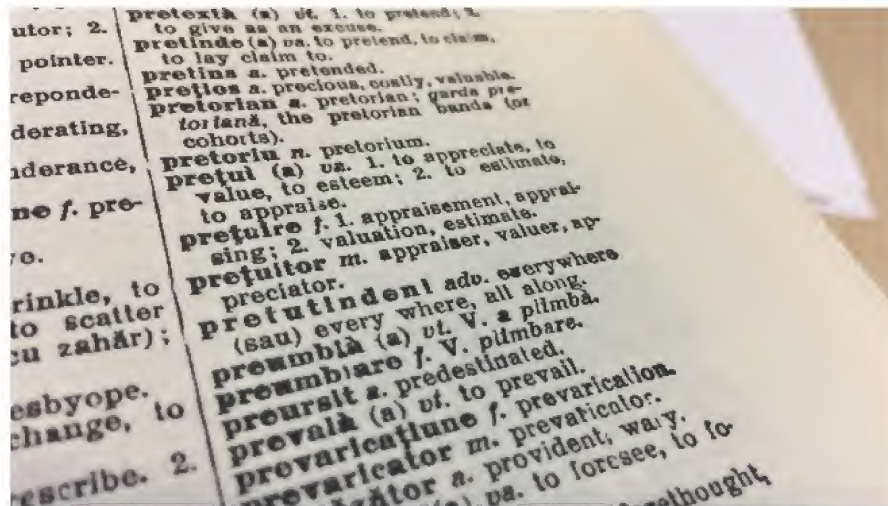
## Romania dictionary altered to thwart exam cheats - BBC News

bbc.com

### Romania dictionary altered to thwart exam cheats

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

16 March 2017



The editors of an online Romanian dictionary have altered the definitions of some words over suspicions that students were using the tool to cheat in mock exams.

On Monday, Grade 8 students in Romania sat practice papers for the National Evaluation, a nationwide test for 14- and 15-years-olds. During the same test last year, the DEX online dictionary registered a spike in searches for certain words,

arousing administrator's suspicions.

This time around, they decided to watch what happened between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, when the exam was taking place. They took the three most-searched words and - on the assumption that they were related to the test - completely changed the definitions for each one, the Republica news website reports.

The Romanian word "pretutindeni" means "everywhere", but anyone searching for it on the DEX site on Monday morning would have found it defined as "eternal or forever". The verb "to spot" someone or something was also amended, with its meaning given as "to rush".

There were only nine searches for those two words in the hour before the exam started, but the number soon began to soar. In the final hour of the test there were 989 requests for their meaning, the DEX editors say. It transpires that both words did feature in the exam, in a question that required students to define their meaning.

The third word that appeared abnormally popular, "treachery", wasn't actually on the test. The DEX editors assumed it was and changed its definition, but later discovered that it had been used by a well-known Romanian author in a blog post that morning, something they call an "unfortunate coincidence".

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Law and order

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/new-employees-filling-out-paperwork-among-dead-in-st-louis/article\\_61510e02-abac-5ce4-b087-8c2a174a1456.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/new-employees-filling-out-paperwork-among-dead-in-st-louis/article_61510e02-abac-5ce4-b087-8c2a174a1456.html)

### 2 new employees filling out paperwork among dead in St. Louis boiler explosion

By Kim Bell, Christine Byers and Jeremy Kohler St. Louis Post-Dispatch 15 hrs ago



This Monday, April 3, 2017, photo from video by KMOV shows damage to the roof of a box company in St. Louis after a boiler exploded and flew through the air before crashing through the roof of a nearby laundry business. (KMOV via AP)

Ghostery blocked NDN Player Suite video player.



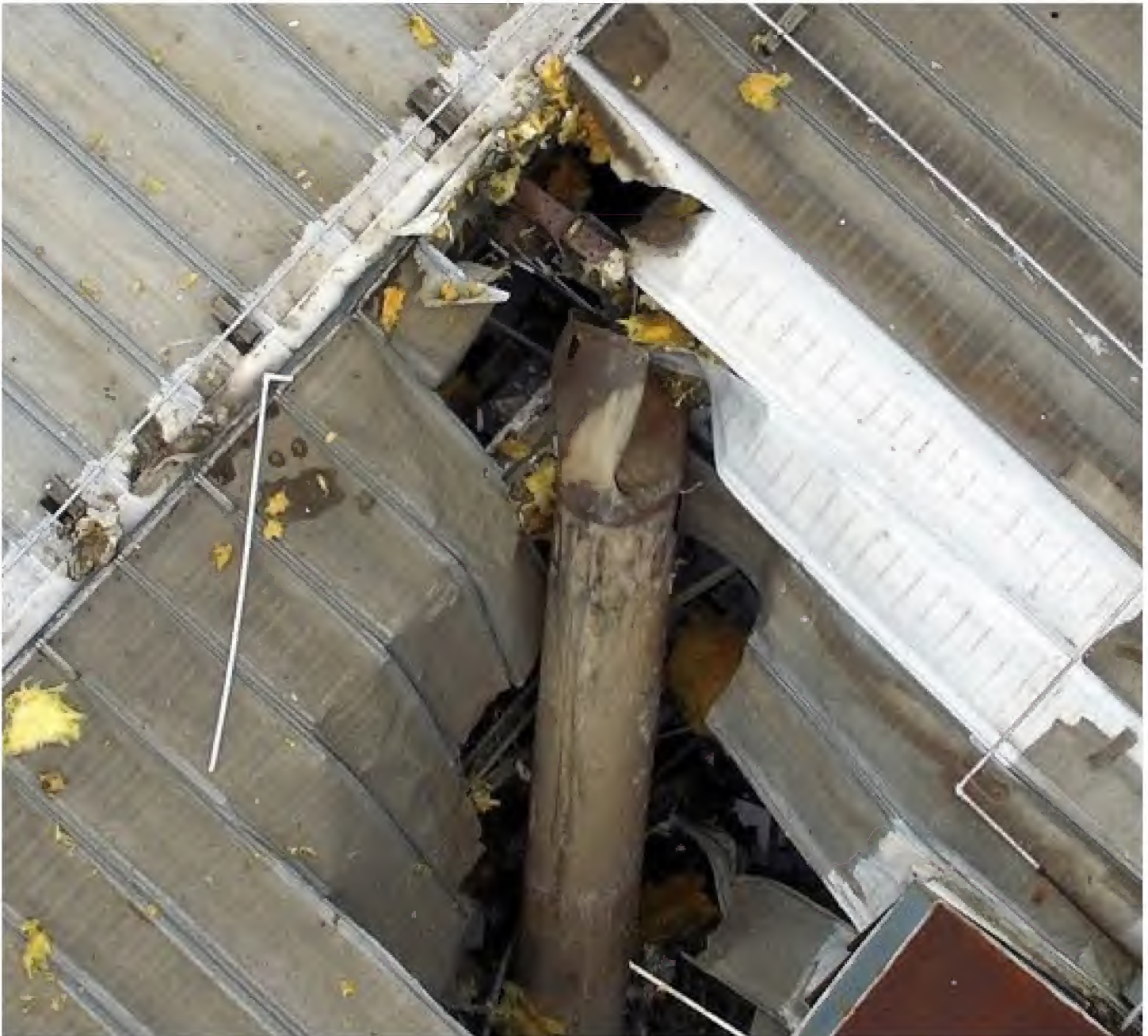
**ST. LOUIS** • Three brand-new hires at a south St. Louis linen laundering company were filling out paperwork in the office Monday morning when a boiler launched by an explosion at a nearby factory crashed through the roof, killing two of them and critically injuring the third.

The initial explosion about 7:30 a.m. killed one person at Loy-Lange Box Co. at 222 Russell Boulevard and shot the boiler into the air. It flew about 500 feet before crashing into the offices at Faultless Healthcare Linen at Russell and South Broadway.

"You just can't believe the size of this tank that landed in the office," said Mark Spence, the chief operating officer of Faultless who confirmed it was two new employees who were killed. "It's just enormous. It's emotionally overwhelming just to think what these poor people experienced."

A total of four people were injured at the two structures. At least two were in critical condition. One of them was a person trapped in the Faultless office underneath the boiler, a metal cylinder at least 10 to 12 feet long and 3 to 3.5 feet in diameter, according to St. Louis Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson. It weighed a ton or more, the chief said.

The St. Louis Fire Department's Collapse Rescue Task Force was able to free that victim from under the boiler, Jenkerson said. The boiler was still hot when he arrived about 15 minutes after the initial call.



A photo provided by the St. Louis Fire Department shows a boiler that landed on the Faultless Healthcare Linen building in St. Louis after an explosion at Loy-Lange Box Co. about a block away on Monday, April 3, 2017.

Police on Monday evening identified one of those killed as Kenneth Trentham, 59. He lived in the 4500 block of Tholozan Avenue.

City records show that Trentham had been one of the licensed engineers at Loy-Lange, said Maggie Crane, a spokeswoman for Mayor Francis Slay.

There were no other details released on the others killed or injured.

A third building was damaged when a piece of pipe about 8 feet long pierced the roof of the Pioneer Industrial Corp. building at 400 Russell. The pipe knocked out the building's sprinkler system, but no one was injured there, Jenkerson said. The blast also threw a pipe so far that it lodged in the windshield of a truck at a business across the street from Loy-Lange.

"This was a very hectic scene with three buildings involved," Jenkerson said. "We've got to shut down gas, electric and water and still maintain the manpower to make sure everyone is accounted for."



Ghostery blocked NDN Player Suite video player.



Sixty-five firefighters were there within 15 minutes, Jenkerson said.

The scene is in the Kosciusko neighborhood, a mostly industrial area just to the east of Soulard. Several streets were blocked off in the area.

Jenkerson said he believes the explosion was accidental. Investigators will be reviewing records to see whether the machine had been properly maintained. He said he wasn't sure whether anyone was working on the boiler at the time of the explosion. The company had two boilers, according to city records, both dating to the 1960s.

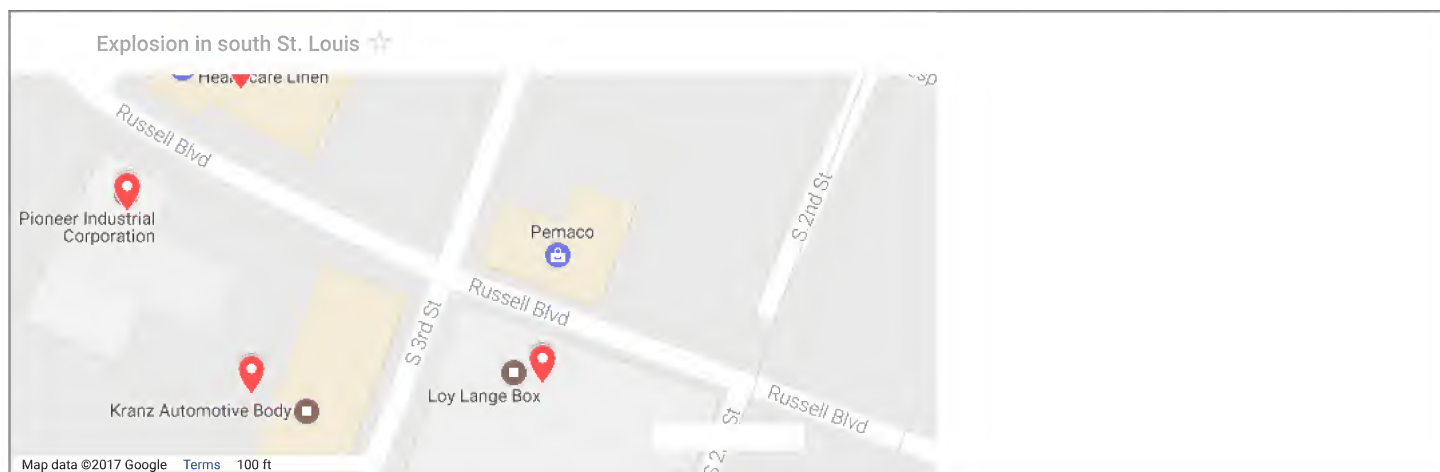
Investigators are looking for any surveillance cameras in the area that might have captured the explosion.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration also sent a team to investigate the cause.

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety requires state inspections of boilers every year or two, depending on the type of boiler — but not in the city of St. Louis.

The city does not inspect boilers but instead requires that every company with a boiler have a licensed engineer on duty whenever a boiler is in operation. The city issues those licenses through the mechanical section of the city's building division, said Crane, the mayor's spokeswoman. The engineers are required to take courses at a trade school and pass a test.

In addition to Trentham, Loy-Lange had two other engineers on staff with up-to-date licenses. Trentham's license had been first issued in 1996 and then renewed annually, Crane said.



## 'A thing you don't forget'

Spence, the Faultless executive, said the Kansas City-based medical linen company employs about 560 people, with more than 100 of them at the south St. Louis facility. The company has counselors available for employees immediately and will for the long-term.

"Being a family-owned business, we're very close-knit and we want to do whatever we can to help," Spence said.

The facility's production area remains intact and functional, Spence said. But the company is diverting some of its work to other facilities in Kansas City and north St. Louis, where employees will be working double shifts, he said.

Removing the boiler from Faultless' building will require a crane, he said.

Explosion kills three near Soulard



Employees of Faultless Healthcare Linen wait for their belongings after being evacuated after debris from an explosion fell through the roof of Faultless, killing two people on Monday, April 3, 2017. A boiler explosion at nearby Loy-Lange Box Co. sent debris flying toward Faultless and a third business. One person died in the Loy-Lange building and four people were injured. Photo by Robert Cohen, [rcohen@post-dispatch.com](mailto:rcohen@post-dispatch.com)

Robert Cohen

After the blast, Faultless employees gathered on a parking lot a block away to console one another. One man, who asked that his name be withheld because he feared he would lose his job, said he was opening bags of soiled hospital linens to be sorted when it happened.

"I heard a big old boom," he said. "It shook the building, then there was silence."

Some people thought a truck hit the building.

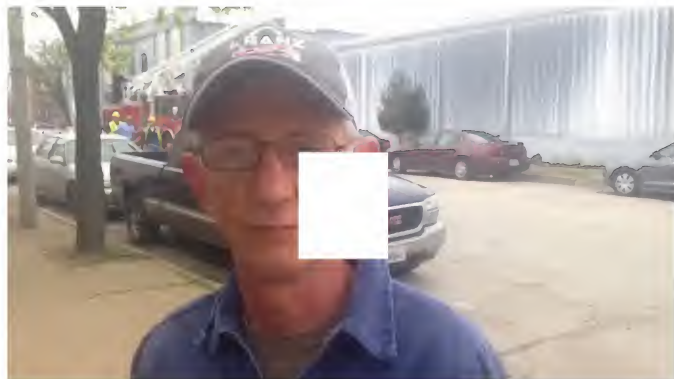
"Everybody was afraid," the man said. "They yelled, 'Get out, don't take anything with you. Just get out.'"

He said they ran outside, then spent the next few hours hearing updates from co-workers but nothing from management.

"That boom is in my mind," the man said. "It's a thing you don't forget."

Inside the plant, he said, a wall and about 10 feet separated him from the administration offices where the boiler landed.

An employee at nearby Kranz Truck Body, across the street from Loy-Lange Box Co., said he was working when he heard the explosion.



**Greg Jonsson**  
@Jonssonville

Follow

Explosion witness Rocky Pruneau, via [@kbellpd](#)

7:32 AM - 3 Apr 2017

3 2

"I open the door and we seen dust flying," said Rocky Pruneau. "Stuff flying everywhere is all we saw."

He said a pipe or pole flew from the Loy-Lange Box Co. building across a parking lot and went through the windshield of his pickup. The pipe was sticking straight out of his windshield.

#### Damaged truck

A pipe or pole pierced the windshield of a parked, unoccupied truck on Monday, April 3, 2017, after an explosion at a box company in south St. Louis. Photo by Kim Bell, [kbell@post-dispatch.com](mailto:kbell@post-dispatch.com)

## Safety violations

Loy-Lange Box Co. specializes in corrugated products, including point-of-purchase packaging and shipping containers. A plant manager at the scene declined to comment, and other representatives of the company could not be reached. The company was founded in 1897, according to its website.

Loy-Lange has been found in violation of federal safety standards three times since 2014, public records indicate.

In February 2014, OSHA found serious violations of standards for preventing injury from the release of stored energy by properly shutting down equipment. The company did not conduct annual inspections of its energy control procedure nor document the people and machines involved in inspections nor ensure that employees were trained. None of the problems had anything to do with boilers. The company was fined \$2,450.

In November 2014, an inspection found the company working with a defective forklift operating without lights, damage to latches on safety chains, a missing guard rail on a boiler, and a pedestal grinder that was not properly anchored. The company paid \$6,566 in penalties.

In October 2016, OSHA found the company did not have clean floors, had holes in the floor, and aisles not in good repair. The company was fined \$3,741.

"Loy-Lange's past OSHA history does indicate several serious safety violations, ones that could potentially have seriously injured the workers, but we have other companies that we have on the severe violator protection program that literally have hundreds of thousands of dollars in violations," said OSHA spokesman Scott Allen. "The company did come into compliance once these issues were addressed with them and paid the penalties once OSHA identified them to the company."

He said Monday's explosion was a "tragic incident. We hope to determine what may have caused it so we can prevent it in the future."

*Jesse Bogan and Nancy Cambria of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.*



Map data ©2017 Google

---

#### Kim Bell

Kim Bell is a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

---

#### Christine Byers

Christine Byers is a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

---

#### Jeremy Kohler

Jeremy Kohler is an investigative reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.





## 'Rules of conduct' for tourists in historic Dutch towns - BBC News

bbc.com

**BBC** By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

•  
16 March 2017



*The charming streets of the Zaanse Schans and nearby towns attract busloads of tourists*

Image copyrightDe Zaanse Schans

Tourists visiting photogenic old towns near Amsterdam are being given guides on good conduct to try to make life easier for locals, it's reported.

The communities, known collectively as Old Holland for their windmills and historic buildings, are popular attractions for day trips, but the visitors don't always behave themselves. Now they're being given a list of rules which tells them,

among other things, not to photograph locals without permission, drop litter or wander through private gardens, Het Parool newspaper reports.

An open-air museum in the area, the Zaanse Schans, recreates aspects of 19th-Century Dutch life but is also a residential area - some of the village's historic buildings are people's homes. Its director says that can prove confusing for tourists, but some day trippers seem to do whatever they like.

"I spoke to a resident who opened the curtains in the morning and found himself staring into nine camera lenses," Peter-Jan van Steenberghe tells Het Parool. "And visitors like to knock on the wooden houses to see if it's real wood. It's not very nice if you're the occupant."

The new code of conduct is an attempt to manage the growing popularity of region, Dutch News reports. The Zaanse Schans itself welcomes up to two million visitors each year, and expects that to grow by 50% over the next decade.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## President Mugabe should run 'as a corpse' if he dies before vote, wife says

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.uk Friday 17 Feb 2017 7:14 pm



President Robert Mugabe (Picture: REUTERS/Philimon Bulawayo)

**Robert Mugabe would still win the Zimbabwe election if he was dead, his wife has said, a year before voters head to the polls.**

Grace Mugabe, who is seen a possible successor to her husband, told supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party her husband would get votes even as a 'corpse'.

'One day when God decides that Mugabe dies, we will have his corpse appear as a candidate on the

ballot paper," she said in Buhera.

'You will see people voting for Mugabe as a corpse. I am seriously telling you – just to show people how people love their president.'

Mugabe, turns 93 on Tuesday, has vowed to stand again in the election, but his wife could run if he dies before the vote.



Grace Mugabe was speaking at a party rally (Picture: REUTERS/Philimon Bulawayo)

He has been in power since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, but has avoided naming a successor and his party is divided between factions jostling to succeed him.

Grace bemoaned the in-fighting, telling those seeking to succeed her husband: 'Let's not fool each other, let's wait for God's time.'

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Satanic Temple billboard condemns corporal punishment in Texas schools

wfaa.com

Satanic Temple billboard condemns corporal punishment in Texas schools

10:38 PM. CDT March 16, 2017

The Satanic Temple is asserting its stance on corporal punishment in schools with a billboard put up in a small town northwest of Fort Worth.

Drivers headed down Route 199 in Springtown, Texas will now see a black billboard with a prominently-displayed message: "Never be hit in school again. Exercise your religious rights."

The billboard, paid for by the Satanic Temple, also lists The Satanic Temple's Protect Children Project website, the temple's online hub for promoting the "inviolability" of the body.

Placing the billboard in Springtown, about 25 miles outside of Fort Worth, is strategic. Springtown ISD still permits corporal punishment in its schools.

"Corporal punishment — spanking or paddling the student — may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual," according to the Springtown ISD student handbook.

The issue really flared up in 2012, after a male assistant principal spanked two female students at Springtown High School.

In a press release Thursday, Satanic Temple spokesman Lucien Greaves said the district has received "some negative attention, but not enough, in the Temple's opinion" in the wake of the 2012 incident.

Greaves called Springtown a "barbaric backwater town" for its practice of corporal punishment in schools. He said in the release that the billboard should be "disturbing" to the city's residents.



A Satanic Temple billboard condemning corporal punishment in schools now stands along Route 199 in Springtown, Texas. Photo: Todd Unger

But Springtown ISD Superintendent Mike Kelley said the information put out on Thursday is misleading at best.

"We haven't practiced it in several years," said Kelley. "It's not a deal where parents can opt out, it's

parents have to opt in. They have to sign a letter care requesting corporal punishment be utilized."



Kelley said administrators can also choose not to participate, and that all of the district's current staff use other disciplinary techniques.

"I had no idea these folks were interested in Springtown ISD," said Kelley, who noted the message was posted during the district's spring break week.

The group says its Protect Children Project website is the temple's online hub for promoting the "inviolability" of the body.

"The Protect Children Project utilizes the First Amendment to protect public school students from being subjected to corporal punishment, solitary confinement, physical restraints, and the deprivation of bathroom access as these abusive practices violate our religious belief of bodily inviolability," the site reads.

Students can register at the site, signing a form that says such harm is a violation of their beliefs. If a registered student then experiences corporal punishment, a letter will be sent on the student's behalf to the local board of education.

Texas is among 19 states that still allow corporal punishment, according to Business Insider. The Satanic Temple's press release claims 110,000 students experience it in schools each year. That number stood at 223,190 in 2008, according to a Human Rights Watch article that year that cited the U.S. Department of Education.

According to its website, The Satanic Temple does not worship Satan, but rather believes Satan is "symbolic of the eternal rebel." The group's stated mission is to "encourage benevolence and empathy among all people."

© 2017 WFAA-TV

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Russian ex-cop tried to build his own 'zombie army' by killing the homeless

By Warren Manger 17:23, 27 FEB 2017 Updated 18:07, 27 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

### Russian ex-cop tried to build 'zombie army' by killing the homeless and performing satanic rituals on their bodies

#### Arsen Bairambekov's killing spree, is the latest in a long list of sick crimes inspired by Russia's deadly obsession with the occult, which stretches back hundreds of years

It sounds like the sick storyline from a Hollywood horror film. Four homeless men stagger into a remote forest clearing in the dead of night.

The flickering firelight casts eerie shadows across a makeshift stone table. Yet there is no sign of the cheap vodka they were promised to warm them against the freezing cold.

Slowly the truth starts to dawn on them. That is no table, it's an altar, and their new friend who promised them free bottles of booze has a far more sinister plan.

One by one they are sacrificed on the altar by the light of the bonfire before satanic rituals are performed on their mutilated bodies.

These are the appalling murders allegedly carried out by Arsen Bairambekov, a former police officer, outside the remote Russia town of Verkhnyaya Pysmha, 900 miles east of Moscow.

Bairambekov is accused of burying the bodies, then returning "some time later" to dig them up, believing the sacrifices had given him the occult powers of a necromancer.

It is said he planned to use his victims to build his own zombie army.

Investigators in the case said: "He tried to bring the dead back to life and turn them into zombies. However, all his attempts were futile."

Bairambekov is clearly not your average police officer. He is also charged with dealing firearms and assassinating two businessmen in 2002 and 2010.

But he cannot simply be dismissed as criminally insane. A psychiatric evaluation ruled he was fit to stand trial and he was canny enough to plea bargain with prosecutors to ensure he faces a maximum jail sentence of just 12 years, despite his horrific crimes.

Instead Bairambekov's killing spree is the latest in a long list of crimes inspired by Russia's deadly obsession with the occult, which stretches back hundreds of years.

There are reportedly 400,000 professional occultists in Russia, fuelling a black magic black market worth £24billion a year.

It is a growing worry for the authorities. As recently as 2008 the Russian interior ministry warned satanism was a bigger threat to national security than Islamic extremism.

In the same year a devil worshipping gang of cannibals murdered four teenagers, stabbing them each 666 times – a number that is revered by Satanists.

Anya Gorokhova, Olga Pukhova, Varya Kuzmina, and Andrei Sorokin, all aged 16 or 17, went missing from their homes in the Russian Yaroslavl region, 300 miles north east of Moscow.

Police believe the teenagers were forced to drink alcohol before they were attacked. They were then hacked to pieces, their body parts roasted over a fire before and eaten by the cult.

Police found the remains in a pit 250m from cult leader Nikolai Ogoobyak's apartment. They also found the body of a small rodent crucified upside down on a cross nearby.



A total of eight people were arrested. One told police: "Satan will help me to avoid

responsibility. I made lots of sacrifices to him."

Another claimed to have previously dug up the body of a girl and eaten her heart.

When a third was asked why he did it, he said: "I tried to turn to God, but it didn't bring me any money. I prayed to Satan and things improved."

There were also a spate of high profile cases in the late 1990s.

Satanic students burned down the Church of the Holy Trinity in the Russian city of Brest in 1995. The following year The Russian Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit in Minsk was desecrated by cultists. They smeared the religious icons black and painted the walls with blasphemous words, Satanic symbols, and threats to "annihilate" Christians.

A satanist was arrested for a ritualist murder in Minks in 1996. He did not deny his guilt and confessed he had prepared for his horrific crime by executing 666 cats.

And a teenage cult were arrested in the Crimean city of Simferopoi after police found the dismembered body of a young woman at the city cemetery, together with vandalised graves.



One of those arrested confessed to practising Satanism for several years, including removing the skull and bones from two graves to perform "magic rites" and stealing metal plates from headstones to make knives to perform evil rituals.

Even more disturbing, police in Saransk, a city in central Russia, warned a devil worshipping cult had encouraged its members to join the force to extend its evil influence in 2010. It is not know how many satanists were successful in infiltrating the police and whether any, like Bairambekov, have used their position to carry out horrific crimes.

That has sparked fears of Russia returning to the dark days of the early 20th century when occultists

infiltrated the innermost corridors of power and wielded influence over the Tsar himself.

There was a French 'sage' called Monsieur Philippe, who held seances to help the royal family contact the dead and prayed with the Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra.

But the most famous was the mystic monk Grigori Rasputin. Born to a peasant family in the frozen wilds of Siberia, it was said he could read minds and heal animals by the time he was 10.



Rasputin joined a Russian Orthodox cult that believed its members needed to experience sin, which suited his love of drinking and violent sex with society women at Moscow bath houses.

Eventually Rasputin captured the attention of the last Tsar Nicholas II's wife Alexandra by supposedly healing her son Alexei Nikolaevich's life-threatening haemophilia, his body's inability to make his blood clot when he cut himself, where the doctors had failed.

There are numerous theories on how he did this, from hypnotising the young prince, to giving him herbs, or simply advising his mother not to let the doctors bother him too much.

Others believe Rasputin took a more devious approach, using inside information leaked by Alexandra's lady-in-waiting to time his treatments for when the prince was already on the road to recovery and claiming the credit.

Certainly the Tsar Nicholas II was less than impressed by Rasputin's work, but he dared not dismiss him for fear of upsetting his wife.



Historian Pierre Gilliard observed: "He did not like to send Rasputin away for, if Alexei had died, in the eyes of the mother he would have been the murderer of his own son."

Whatever influence Rasputin really had over the Tsar and his wife, the people feared he had led them astray. After numerous failed assassination attempts he was finally murdered in December 1916 and dumped in the river Neva, where his body was trapped beneath the ice for two months.

His killers hope that by doing so they would save the Romanov royal dynasty. But public support for the Tsar was not critically low, stoking the flames of the Russian Revolution in 1917.

The idea that the Russian royal family had turned to the occult to help them rule the country may have caused outrage and contributed to their downfall, but many Russians are still happy to embrace it as part of their own lives.

The collapse of the Soviet system in the 1980s led to such a surge in occult beliefs that one in five Russians has seen a psychic or mystic at least once.

They offer to help with all areas of life, from health to wealth and romance. Witches will cast a "returning" spell to bring back a lover, or a charm to help an alcoholic relative back on track.

They will also ward off the evil eye, or even bewitch a company's entire bookkeeping department to supposedly increase their clients' salaries and ensure loan applications are approved.

Successful businessmen even admit to using clairvoyants to help them make vital business deals.

After the fall of Communism these psychic healers were even given a public platform by the Kremlin and were beamed into every home on Russia on state-owned television stations on the authority of President Boris Yeltsin, who was captivated by the paranormal.

The most successful was Anatoly Kashpirovsky, a former weightlifter turned psychiatrist and psychic dubbed "the new Rasputin" who, at the height of his fame, regularly beat Yeltsin into second place in public popularity polls before claims that his show caused a wave of suicides.

His great rival was Alan Chumak, a white haired figure who would claimed to charge jars of water in his viewers' homes with the power to healing everything from allergies to stomach pains.

Yeltsin also approved a number of bizarre projects, hiring psychics to work for the security agencies, funding schemes to extract energy from stones, and employing 127 psychics to spend weeks searching for a passenger plane that disappeared in east Russia in December 1995.

The wreckage was eventually found in a matter of hours when the authorities began using their radar systems instead of relying on the supernatural.

However, the days of state sponsored psychics seem to be over, as the Russian parliament has introduced new laws to stop mystics advertising their supernatural services in the mass media.

Dispelling Russia's obsession with the occult may prove rather more difficult.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Scientists Probing How 2 Nuclear Reactors Contracted 'Small Pox'

All India | Press Trust of India | Updated: March 19, 2017 10:40 IST

ndtv.com



**Mumbai:** In a highly guarded Indian nuclear reactor complex, toughened radiation resistant pipes have contracted 'small pox'.

As a consequence, literally in a plot similar to a Bollywood thriller Indian scientists are burning the midnight oil to unravel the mysterious nuclear leak at the Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant in Gujarat.

This 21st century atomic pot boiler is actually unfolding through the hard work of scientists, who actually share a wall with the famous property where renowned Bollywood film star Raj Kapoor used to live. Here, they are working over-time to find out the real cause of the cryptic leaks at twin reactors in southern Gujarat.

To avoid any panic and any further accidents, the Indian nuclear watchdog - the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) - has shut down the affected plants till the cause has been found.

Nuclear experts say pipes, made from a rare alloy, have contracted what seems like 'small pox' and this contagion has spread all over the critical tubes in two Indian Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) at Kakrapar in Gujarat. And, to make the matters worse, after more than a year into the investigation, the teams of scientists really do not understand what has gone wrong.

It was on the morning of March 11, 2016, and as fate would have it exactly five years after the Fukushima reactors in Japan started exploding, unit number 1 of the 220-MW PHWR at Kakrapar developed a heavy water leak and had to be shut down in an emergency.

The indigenously built nuclear plant suffered a heavy water leak in its primary coolant channel and a plant emergency was declared at the site.

No worker was exposed and no radiation leaked outside the plant, confirmed India's Department of Atomic Energy.

India's nuclear operator, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) said "reactor had shut down safely" and "no radiation leaked out".

It confirmed that safety systems had functioned normally.

The atomic thriller really begins when experts are trying to find out why a leak recognition system failed, in the first place it should have given an alarm.

"There is a leak detection system in place in all PHWRs, but in this case it failed to detect the leak on March 11, 2016," confirms AERB Chairman S A Bhardwaj. AERB speculates that the crack developed so rapidly that the electronic leak detection system just did not have the time to react.

Subsequent investigations revealed that the leak detection system was fully functioning and the operator had "NOT shut it down" to cut costs.

Nothing in the core of a nuclear reactor can be done in a jiffy and several weeks after the first leak, initial probe using a specially designed tool revealed that four big cracks had formed on a coolant



tube which led to the massive leak.

The discovery of the crack was only the beginning of the mystery, further efforts to find the root cause established that the outside of the tube, the part which was not exposed to high temperature heavy water, was also for some unexplained reason "corroded".

This was a stunning discovery, since the outside of the failed tube was exposed only to high temperature carbon dioxide and there had been no recorded case of a similar corrosion having been seen on the outside of any tube. It is also very hard to access this part since the space was very tiny in the annulus.

The AERB then ordered that all the tubes made out of a special alloy of zirconium-niobium be checked on the outside, to their surprise, they discovered that the contagion of the "nodular corrosion" or what in layman's language can also be described as "small pox-like" was very widespread in many of the 306 tubes.

Tubes made from the same batch and used at other Indian reactors continue to operate faithfully, without corrosion.

The needle of suspicion now pointed to the carbon dioxide, a gas known to be very stable in high radiation environments.

A further postmortem revealed that the Unit-2 which is twin of the affected reactor had also been affected by a similar leak on July 1, 2015 almost ten months before the Unit 1 had a sudden appalling failure in March 2016.

Investigations into why the Unit-2 failed were ongoing but no conclusive result had been found. This literally back-to-back failure of two fully functional nuclear reactors befuddled the engineers.

Unrelenting in trying to find out the root cause, the AERB ordered that entire assembly and not just the affected tube be safely pulled out and brought to India's foremost nuclear laboratory, the Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) in Mumbai for detailed failure analysis.

It is this laboratory located at Trombay in Chembur, in Mumbai that shares geography with India's famous Bollywood Kapoor family.

In addition, since India operates another 16 similar nuclear plants, a full-fledged investigation was carried out on the coolant channels of all atomic power plants and lo-and-behold the investigating team found that the "small pox" like corrosion was confined only to the two units that operated at Kakrapar.

While this gave a sigh of relief to the NPCIL but it increased the complexity on trying to unravel the true cause of the leaks at Kakrapar.

Today, Bhardwaj says the investigators are wondering if the carbon dioxide used in Kakrapar may have been contaminated which caused the "nodular corrosion" on the outside of the pipes.

The source of the carbon dioxide was further back traced and it seems only the Kakrapar plant was sourcing its gas from a "Naptha cracking unit" and possibly it has some contamination of hydrocarbons.

No conclusive evidence on the contamination has been forthcoming and forensic analysis is still under way.

As it turns out nuclear engineers are masters of book-keeping especially when ageing of equipment is concerned and a more detailed check in the history of the plants revealed that in 2012 two tubes had been extracted from the Kakrapar plant as part of routine maintenance and had been safely stored in a safe warehouse.

When these were re-examined in 2017, the investigators were surprised that the "small pox" like corrosion on the exterior of the tube was not present. This now makes the investigators suspect that something went wrong after 2012.

Meanwhile, the AERB and the atomic energy establishment has also reached out to the vast global nuclear community to try and help resolve this mystery.

The global watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and ten other global forums have been informed that a mysterious leak is dogging the Indian reactors at Kakrapar and if the global community could be of some help.

The international community is as much at a loss in explaining the failures as are the Indian teams.

India operates 18 PHWR reactors and over the years it has accumulated some 348 years of operating experience of these unique nuclear plants powered using natural uranium and in all these years, the Department of Atomic Energy asserts no radiation related death has taken place at any nuclear plant and no radiation has ever leaked out of the Indian PHWR's.

In addition to it, 29 PHWRs are today functional in Canada, Argentina, Romania, China, South Korea and Pakistan and none have reported any issue like the 'small pox like corrosion' on any of its nuclear plants.

Bharadwaj says right now there are only hunches but teams at BARC are exposing the Zircalloy tubes to carbon dioxide spiked with various contaminants and they are being placed in a high radiation environment to accentuate the aging process to try and determine the exact cause of the two processes----"small pox like nodular corrosion and the development of cracks in the coolant tubes."

These could be linked or independent, says Bhardwaj, who feels that in the next few months, the root cause will definitely be deciphered till then the reactors will remain shut.

India currently operates 22 nuclear reactors with an installed capacity of 6,780 MW and hopes to ramp up nuclear output to 32,000 MW by 2032.

Meanwhile, the continuing nuclear mystery is giving the vast Indian nuclear establishment and its atomic sleuths 'nuclear jitters'.

*(This story has not been edited by NDTV staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)*

© Copyright NDTV Convergence Limited 2017. All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Scientists: You'd need to eat a trillion calories to shoot 'Star Wars' force lightning

wtop.com



(NEW YORK) — While *Star Wars* isn't science fiction, with the release of *Rogue One*, brilliant people have been examining some science facts with regard to that galaxy far, far away. That's how we just learned, for example, it would take \$7.8 octillion to run the Death Star for a day.

But now, they're drilling deeper, and undergraduate researchers at the University of Leicester have

determined that to fire lightning from your fingertips as did Sith Lords like Darths Sideous and Tyrannus — AKA Emperor Palpatine and Count Dooku — you'd need to consume a trillion calories.

That's about 1.6 billion Big Macs.

The researchers crunched the numbers, using plate capacitors as stand-ins for a Sith Lord and his zapped victim. It's as thorough as it is confusing for non-eggheads, with graphs and all, but the conclusion is easy to follow:

Essentially, any Sith Lord you encounter would appear more like Jabba the Hutt than the late Christopher Lee's lithe Dark Side user.

"We can thus conclude that without drawing power from some other source, it is unlikely a Sith lord could healthily produce lightning," the scientists conclude.

The findings were published in the *Journal of Physics Special Topics*, with the title, "How to be a Healthy Sith Lord."

---

Copyright © 2017, ABC Radio. All rights reserved.



## Scientology-backed drug rehab operates despite deaths there

washingtontimes.com

By - Associated Press - Sunday, January 22, 2017

CANADIAN, Okla. (AP) - A Church of Scientology-backed drug rehabilitation program in southeastern Oklahoma where four clients died continues to operate because of a loophole in a state law intended to provide more oversight of drug and alcohol rehab centers.

Oklahoma enacted Stacy's Law in 2013 after 20-year old Stacy Dawn Murphy died at the Narconon Arrowhead facility of an accidental drug overdose a year earlier.

But a loophole in the law lets the facility continue to operate its drug rehabilitation program - certified not as an inpatient treatment program, but as a halfway house, The Oklahoman reported (<http://bit.ly/2kfr4d8> ).

The exception allows the facility to operate with less state scrutiny.

Murphy came to the facility overlooking Lake Eufaula near Arrowhead State Park seeking to beat a heroin addiction in 2012, said her parents, who are suing the facility in civil court for negligence and wrongful death.

She was among four patients to die at the facility in three years. Numerous civil lawsuits have been filed against the center, and Narconon Arrowhead has settled many of them under confidential terms.

Gary Smith, executive director of Narconon Arrowhead, said the program continues to offer the same services, as a certified halfway house by the state, and says the facility changed its policies since the deaths of the four clients. He didn't elaborate on what policy changes were made.

No criminal charges have been filed against the facility in connection with the deaths.

"It's a different certification," Smith said. "It's a level of care. We are a drug rehab, like we always have been. Halfway house is a level of care that Oklahoma has for drug rehab programs."

Murphy's lawsuit is scheduled for trial later this year in McAlester.

---

Information from: The Oklahoman, <http://www.newsok.com>

Copyright © 2017 The Washington Times, LLC.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Seagull caught stealing people's parking tickets

metro.co.uk

Ashitha Nagesh for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Feb 2017 10:25 am



*Seagull caught stealing people's parking tickets*

Cheeky (Picture: Mercury Press)

A seagull has been caught stealing people's parking tickets from their windscreens.

The gull was spotted enthusiastically gnawing at a ticket that had been stuck to someone's silver Audi A3 in Caernarfon, Wales, on February 7.

As mechanic Danny Welsh was passing, he saw the bird really going at the black and yellow notice and decided to take a photo.

However, as he started shooting a video someone turned up and scared the seagull off – and it took the ticket with it.

'Some poor person is going to get a letter through the door asking them to pay a fine they quite rightly never knew about,' Danny, 26, said.

'Parking wardens obviously aren't the most popular people, so maybe this bird had it in for them as well?'

He added that, although he thinks seagulls can be 'a right pest', he found this particular one 'hilarious'.

'Everywhere you go round here there are seagulls, because we're by the sea,' he said.

'The notice was stuck to the windscreen, but this guy just plucked it away and made off like it was his dinner.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## The Ketamine Secrets of 'Ecco the Dolphin' - VICE

vice.com

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/the-ketamine-secrets-of-segas-ecco-the-dolphin-347](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/the-ketamine-secrets-of-segas-ecco-the-dolphin-347)

### The Ketamine Secrets of 'Ecco the Dolphin'

Tom Jones

Mar 16 2015, 4:47am



**The unlikely connection between a drug-addicted scientist and a cute video game character.**

I don't remember how I ended up getting a copy of *Ecco the Dolphin*. I preferred to play stuff that involved lots of punching and kicking, and a game about a lost cetacean searching for his family would have come as an affront to my then bloodthirsty childhood brain.

However, it became one of my favorite Sega games, representing a welcome change from the instant button-bashing gratification of fucking up punks and bikers in *Streets Of Rage 2*. The central character is a dolphin, obviously, called Ecco, again, who is estranged from his pod after a mysterious tornado sucks them out of the ocean. It transpires that they've been abducted by a group of aliens known as the Vortex, who come to Earth to harvest its natural resources, including sucking up a smorgasbord of sea life. Ecco's quest takes him to Atlantis, before he travels back in time through a complex combination of wormholes to confront the Vortex at its hive, the Machine.

*Ecco* was a hit for the Genesis in the early 1990s, and the beginning of a successful series that ran until the Dreamcast didn't. I hadn't thought about it much between then and now—until last year, when I was reading up on John C Lilly.

Lilly was once a renowned and respected scientist, with a particular interest in marine biology and interspecies communication. In the early 1960s he was given funding by NASA to research whether it was possible to teach dolphins to speak. NASA's logic was that if we could learn to communicate with dolphins, we would have a better understanding of how to converse with extraterrestrials if they were to ever pop down for a visit.

Lilly flooded a house in the Caribbean so that dolphins could live as closely as possible with him and his team, among them Margaret Howe Lovatt, who apparently had sex with one of the animals. The experiment fizzled out as, unsurprisingly, nobody was able to get any of them to talk—although check out YouTube for one of his subjects attempting a pretty close "Hello Margaret." Useful, if all aliens were named Margaret. Lilly lost funding for the project, moved away from traditional science and threw himself further and further into 1960s pseudo-mysticism and chemical experimentation.

Around 1971 Lilly was looking for a cure for his chronic migraines, and a friend suggested that ketamine could help get rid of them. Back then ketamine wasn't a widely used drug, probably only





John C Lilly, via

used recreationally by a small group of dedicated trippers, quite unlike its status today as a popular party drug. When he was under the influence of a small dose of K, Lilly said that he felt the migraine being pushed out of his body and, miraculously, he never had one again. Encouraged by this, he developed a longstanding affection for the substance he dubbed "Vitamin K," and started taking it regularly, gradually injecting it in higher doses.

Just shooting up ketamine on its own wasn't enough for Lilly, though, and soon he was IV-ing it inside a sensory deprivation tank with the help

of his friend, Dr Craig Enright. They thought that by using the tank external stimulation would be significantly reduced, giving a psychedelic or, in this case, a dissociative experience at a higher level of intensity. Neither appreciated that what they were doing was incredibly fucking dangerous—tranquilizing drugs and floating on water aren't to be mixed under most circumstances, and sure enough Lilly's wife, Antonietta, had to resuscitate him on one occasion where he nearly drowned. These experiments would form the foundation for Paddy Chayefsky's 1978 novel *Altered States*, later adapted into a movie by director Ken Russell.

'Altered States,' trailer

During his sessions, Lilly came to believe that he was being contacted by an organic extraterrestrial entity called the Earth Coincidence Control Office—ECCO. This alien group was benevolent, omniscient, and in control of all earthly matters. Except for when they weren't quite so friendly, as at one point Lilly thought they'd made off with his penis:

That evening I took 150 milligrams of ketamine, and suddenly the Earth Coincidence Control Office removed my penis and handed it to me. I screamed in terror. My wife Toni came running in from the bedroom, and she said, "It's still attached." So I shouted at the ceiling, "Who's in charge up there? A bunch of crazy kids?"

The similarities between Sega's *Ecco the Dolphin* and Lilly's ketamine fantasies are undeniable. It's almost like the game's story is an amalgamation of his interest in dolphins and the wacky philosophy he spouted when returning to reality from his phenomenal K-hole trips.

Alongside ECCO, Lilly encountered another alien life force, which he called the Solid State Intelligence. Unlike the entities from ECCO, the SSI were spawned by a mechanical solar system, and their main aim was to ravage the earth and destroy mankind. It's not unlike the much-documented cinematic battles between us fleshy creatures and advanced AI turned malevolent, and it's no stretch to compare the SSI with *Ecco's* Vortex enemies, those evil, dolphin-kidnapping interstellar villains.

Perhaps I'm starting to sound a little like Danny Dyer's character Moff in *Human Traffic* (see above), but I think this has a lot more substance than other possible video game drug references—like the "hallucinogenic" mushrooms in *Super Mario Bros*, or all the pills Pac-Man munched through as he made his way around those haunted mazes. But such claims always come across as stoned

speculation, inane banter between mates after the third joint had been smoked out, with no game designer backing up them up.

And Ed Annunziata, the creator of *Ecco the Dolphin*, had said very little about Lilly, making my comparisons between the game and the drug philosophy I'd read about seem like just another coincidence. Until a little internet digging revealed a single tweet, subsequently posted on a Facebook fan page. It's brief, but tantalizing: "No, I never took LSD, but I did read a lot from John C. Lilly."

And there you have it, from the creator himself: *Ecco* did take inspiration from Lilly, and proof that horse tranquilizer-induced fantasies can indeed form the basis for great games. And if that's not a challenge to the young, upcoming developers of right now, I don't know what is.

*Follow Tom Jones on Twitter.*

JV

Jana Vasiljević

Mar 16 2015, 4:47am

© 2017 VICE Media LLC

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

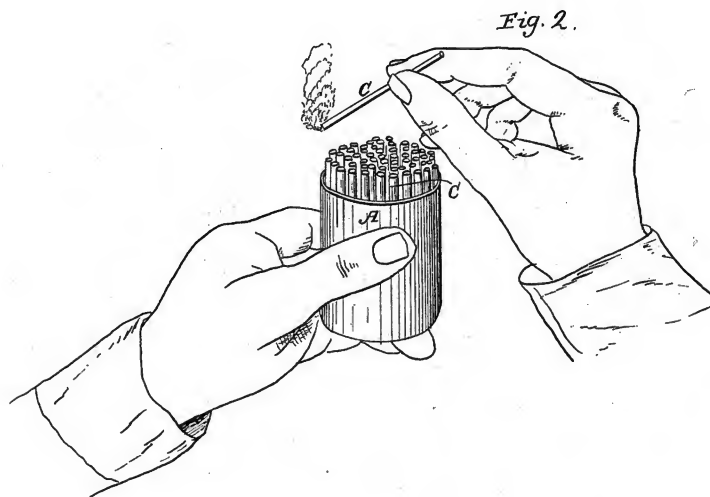
## The self-opening coffin - Thomas Morris

thomas-morris.uk

In 1875 a physician from New York, Samuel Ward Francis, published a book called *Curious Facts, Concerning Man and Nature*. I say 'book', but it's more of a pamphlet, a collection of disparate essays running to just 20 pages; this was the second volume in a series. Some of his articles express deep scepticism about Darwin's theory of evolution, which he attempted to debunk by drawing attention to various unexpected similarities between objects in nature – pointing out that such parallels suggest the hand of an omniscient Creator. This is what causes him to ask the strange question (the title of the first essay), 'Is the Sun an egg?'

Francis was a reasonably distinguished medic, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, but his true calling was that of an inventor. Indeed, he patented an early typewriter which is on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Other inventions were less successful. He was also granted a patent for this improved matchbox, a cylindrical object lined with sandpaper, so that pulling the match out of the box made it ignite:

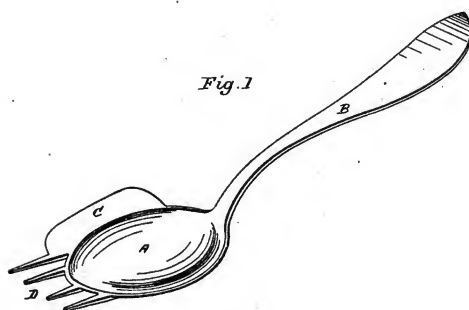


improved matchbox  
S. W. FRANCIS.

Combined Knives, Forks, and Spoons.

No. 147,119.

Patented Feb. 3, 1874.



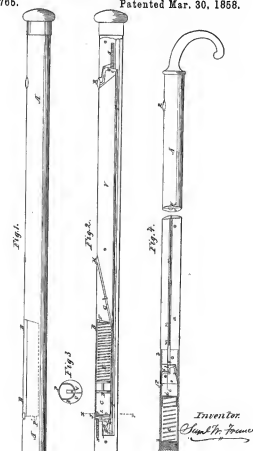
spork

He also seems to be the original inventor of the 'spork' – a combined knife, fork and spoon:

But my personal favourite is this 'Omnibus cane', a walking stick containing a supply of three-cent pieces and a dispensing mechanism so that a bus passenger could hand his fare over to the driver without getting out of his seat.

His collection *Curious Facts* contains another invention which he seems never to have patented: the self-opening coffin. It is an attempt to address the fear – which was genuinely widespread in the mid-19th century – of being buried alive.

S. W. FRANCIS.  
OMNIBUS CANE.  
No. 19,765. Patented Mar. 30, 1868.



omnibus cane

This is how he describes it:

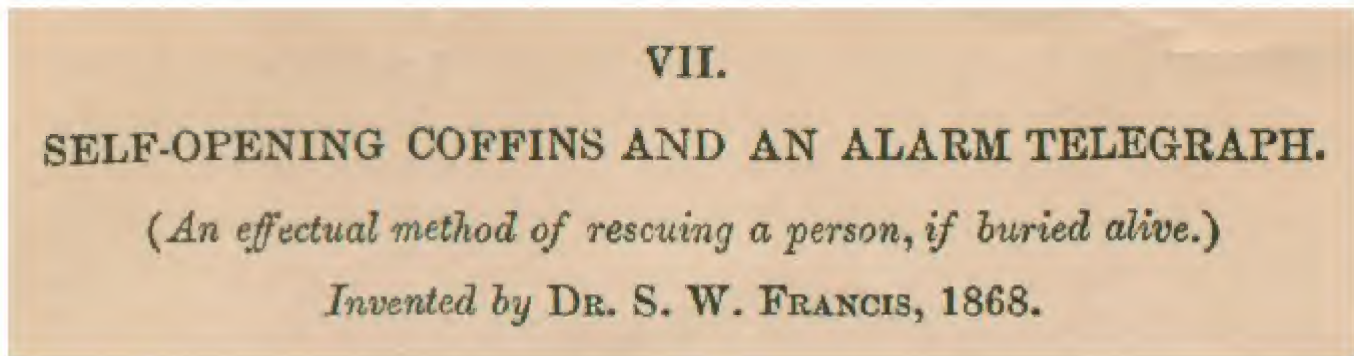
*I would suggest that a coffin be closed by spring lids, merely held down by two catches. These are connected with both of the arms (which are crossed,) of the supposed dead person. Attached to this wire is another long one, which comes out of the coffin and is joined to a little telegraph wire, which is run into every vault. Now, if the person buried, wakes up out of a*

*trance,—instead of going through all the never to be known hopeless agonies of mind and body—their first impulse, as a proof of returning consciousness, is to move their hands, which act presses the springs so that the catches let go, the coffin-lid flies open, and the victim of circumstances, can sit up.*

Dr Francis does not explain how the unfortunate not-corpse is expected to get out of the coffin if it is buried under six feet of earth.

*In the meantime the telegraph wire has rung a bell in the keeper's lodge, and called his attention to the alarming fact that "Vault No. 67 has come to life—send assistance."*





self-opening coffin

conjures up a pleasing mental image of a graveyard attendant sitting in an office in front of a row of bells like a Victorian servant, waiting to be summoned.

*This invention is important to the public, and I sincerely hope that it may be adopted by some large corporation, and prove of assistance in rendering the horrors of such burials less likely to occur—an event that might possibly happen under the most cautious arrangements. The entire expense of the application of this idea would be but a very few dollars, and add much to ease the minds of the bereaved.*

Because of course graveyard attendants have nothing better to do than wait for one of the corpses to wake up and ring a bell.

*I would also suggest that the vault door shut with a spring-lock that opens with a key on the outside, and a handle on the inside. Of course there should be a sufficient number of air holes in the coffin lid.*

Glad we've got that sorted. Alas, there is no evidence that Dr Francis's neat idea was ever put into practice.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Police hunt 'serial defecator'

standard.co.uk



*The image released by police, which was not taken at the time of the incident*

Police are hunting a man who allegedly defecated in public on a leafy street in south London.

A CCTV image has been released of a suspect following the alleged incident in East Dulwich, a short walk from Dulwich Village.

The Met believe that this is not the first time he has performed such an act and that similar cases may not have been reported to police.

Southwark Police want to speak to him about an incident of "outraging public decency" in Eastlands Crescent, at about 5.15pm on

Thursday, February 16.

The suspect was described to police as a white male; aged around mid 50s, around 5ft 8ins tall with a medium build.

At the time of the incident he was wearing jeans and a grey jumper.

**Anyone with any information on who the man in the picture may be are asked to contact DC O'Hare at Southwark CID on 020 7232 6116, or police via 101 or by tweeting @MetCC.**

**To give information anonymously Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111 or by visiting [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).**

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Serial Dine-And-Dash Dater Strikes Again

cbslocal.com

**LOS ANGELES (CBSLA.com)** — A handsome man who attracts women online, then dines and dashes while on the date, has struck again.

As a woman scrolls through her text messages with Paul Gonzales, she says she thought she was just going on a typical blind date.

“He said ‘Are you available at all this weekend for dinner?’ I said ‘Yes, how about Sunday?’ ” said the woman, who did not want to be identified.

Another woman says they met on the dating app Bumble, though he called himself Dave Gonzales, and has since taken down his profile. They met at BJ’s in Pasadena, and he ordered right away.

“A glass of pinot, a Caesar salad with a side of shrimp, a steak and a baked potato.”

She says after he scarfed down most of his meal, he got up.

“He left maybe half a baked potato and then received a phone call and said ‘I need to take this call,’ ” the woman recalled.

She says he never returned, leaving her with the bill.

“The waiter came back and said ‘He’s not out there. Is this a first date? And I said: ‘Yes, this is a first blind date, and he said, ‘He’s gone.’ ”

Shocked, she went online and discovered **our previous stories about Gonzales**, how he had dined and dashed last summer, leaving at least two other women with large bills.

“I was shocked that anybody would do this. And I even texted him, ‘Is everything OK?’ And obviously he never responded,” she said.

Police also say he committed a snip and ditch when security video caught him leaving a Burbank hair salon with his smock on after getting a cut and color last year.

According to the L.A. County District Attorney’s Office, 44-year-old Gonzales has two bench warrants out for his arrest after not showing up to court for petty theft and driving without a valid license. Records show he’s already been to jail several times for misdemeanor arrests.

One of the women says the restaurant was nice enough to comp Gonzales’ meal. She just had to pay for his glass of wine.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Seven feared dead after huge explosion tears through fireworks factory

metro.co.uk

This site uses cookies. By continuing, your consent is assumed. [Learn more](#)  
Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk Tuesday 4 Apr 2017 7:56 pm



Seven feared dead after huge explosion tears through fireworks factory

Seven are feared dead

**Seven people are feared dead after a huge explosion in a fireworks factory in Portugal.**

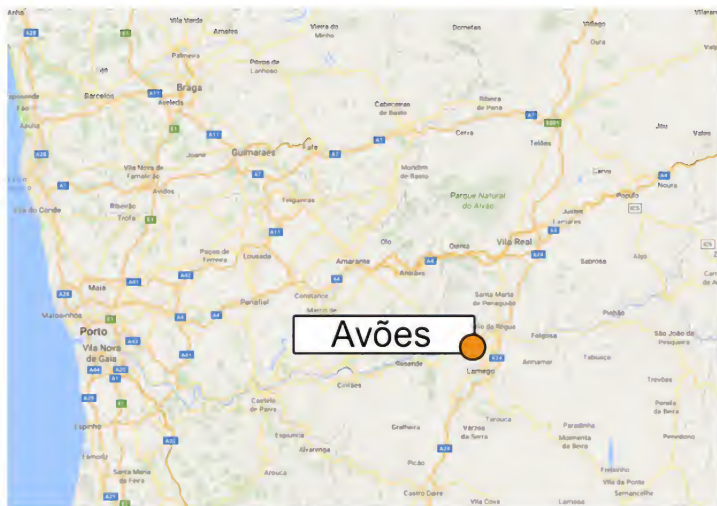
The explosion happened before 6pm local time in the village of Avoes, near Porto.

Nearly 100 firefighters, police and paramedics are in attendance.

The chairman of the local parish council, Mario Rebelo told local TV

that seven people were dead.

Police sources said that three were confirmed dead and others were missing.



seven dead fireworks

Seven feared dead after huge explosion tears through fireworks factory

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## San Diego Brewery Makes Beer From Treated Sewage Water

huffingtonpost.com

San Diego's Stone Brewing, the nation's ninth-largest brewery, has unveiled a beer made with treated sewage water.

The recycled-water pale ale is called Full Circle. Stone made five barrels of the beer using water treated at the city's Pure Water demonstration plant, according to the Times of San Diego.

San Diego officials hope to purify enough recycled water by 2035 to handle one-third of the city's drinking water supply.

Stone's chief operating officer, Pat Tiernan, said the purified recycled water is actually better than what the brewery uses now.

"This particular water will just help us not require so much natural water to come in and give us a more reliable source," Tiernan told San Diego 6. "So for us to be able to reuse, that's part of our mantra, that's part of what we do," Tiernan said.

Brewer Steve Gonzalez, who created Full Circle, admits being skeptical at first but says it ended up being one of his favorites.

"Among the pale ales that I've made, it's probably in the top three," he told KGTV, adding that those who drink the beer will "get some caramel notes, some tropical fruit notes. It's a very clean-tasting beer."

Hop heads who've tried the treated-sewage suds are pleasantly surprised. "[I thought] that it would have an off taste or be something different to it ... it's outstanding," taster Shane Trussell told San Diego's KGTV.

Full Circle is not currently for sale, but Stone Brewing execs are flush with expectation.

The truth is stranger than fiction. Step into the world of weird news. [Learn more](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Husband seeks divorce because wife makes him give oral sex during her period metro.co.uk

---

Jen Mills for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Feb 2017 3:02 pm  
They are from Agege in Nigeria (Picture: Google Maps)

**A man has asked for a divorce on the basis that his wife makes him give her oral sex while she is on her period.**

Idongesit Etuk, 38, accused his wife Blessing, 40, of wanting him to 'suck her blood' and said that she must be in a secret cult due to her sexual preference.

He told a court: 'My wife is demonic. For several years, she will insist that we have sex when she is having her monthly flow.

'I didn't have issues with that at first because she is my wife and I vowed to love her.

'But things got out of hand when she will always insist that I give her a blow job.

'Initially, I did not take her serious but she threatened to divorce me and take our two children along with her, if I don't give her what she asks for.'

His wife denies trying to force him and said she only asked him to do it once.

He accused his wife of being 'demonic' (Picture for illustration: Getty)

The couple, from Agege, Nigeria, have been married for twelve years but the husband now says he cannot take the relationship any longer.

'Please, I am tired of the union,' he told a judge. 'If she is not in a secret cult, how can I suck her blood when I did not have any spiritual covenant with her?'

'My wife is also abusive and arrogant. She lacks respect for my family.'

However, Blessing told the the court that she didn't want a divorce, and urged the judge not to grant one.

'I still love my husband and I cannot bear to leave without him,' she said. 'My children cannot leave without a father at such tender age.'

She denied forcing Idongesit to suck her menstrual blood.

'I do not force him,' she told court president Phillip Williams. 'I asked him only once and when he disagreed, I did not bother him again.'

Mr Williams said the marriage could no longer stand as Idongesit's life was threatened.

He granted the divorce, saying: 'The respondent will have custody of the children and all expenses will be paid by the complainant who will have free access to the children.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## She Lied About Everything, except Marrying Wyatt Earp

messynessychic.com



# MESSY NESSY

## CABINET OF CHIC CURIOSITIES

March 15, 2017



A vagabond and speculated prostitute of the Wild West, nothing Josephine Earp ever did was seemingly adventurous enough even for herself. She thrived off the change of environments

and had a certain mystique about her that followed her around like too much perfume. But that's what drew people to her. That was Josie Earp's style.

Born in New York City in 1860, the life of Josephine Sarah Marcuse (Josie, as she preferred to be known) has been pieced together through fact and fiction; a more romantic version of events fabricated by the woman herself vs the official documents that tell a different tale. By the age of thirteen, Josie was already crafting a life that didn't actually belong to her. At first the fabrications were harmless, claiming her German father ran a successful mercantile business when in fact, he was a modest Prussian baker. According to Josie, she lived in a prosperous, comfortable Jewish community when she actually lived in a crowded and diverse neighbourhood where factory smoke fogged the air. But soon, her lies started to consume her, as she began inventing a glamorous life she could only ever have dreamed about.



*This photo was taken in Prescott, Arizona Territory, in 1880, and is believed to be of a young Josephine*

The girl who left home at the age of 14 once said, "There was far too much excitement in the air to remain a child." She wrote in what is claimed to be her own memoirs years later that she recalled kissing her mother goodbye on the cheek, as if she was going to school, and never returning home.

Josie prided herself on having been a part of the Pauline Markham Pinafore Dance Troupe. Her memoir even gives her recollection of sailing down the Californian coast with the Troupe and her friend Dora (who never existed), making a pit stop in Santa Barbara before boarding a stagecoach to Arizona.

In reality, the Markham Troupe left for Arizona via train in October of 1879, not by ship. Her name was never seen on a program or document of any sort from the Troupe. Whatever she was trying to hide, Josie wasn't very good at covering her tracks.

Either way, Josie she and "Dora" supposedly hopped on a stagecoach and headed straight for Arizona after spending the night in Santa Barbara. However, when talk arose of "Apache Indians escaping from their reservations," Josie and

Dora were whisked away to a ranch house for safety by Al Sieber, a famous Indian scout. They would spend 10 days there, sleeping on the floor and making new "acquaintances". In the midst of it all, Josie met her future love interest – the handsome Johnny Behan.

After her extended stay in Santa Barbara, Josie claims she and Dora headed back to San Francisco. But did she really ever return home? It seems as though Behan was too much of a catch to leave behind in Arizona. Records show that during that December of 1874, Behan was a frequent customer of "the house of ill fame"



Stagecoach travel in 1880s Arizona Territory



Johnny Behan

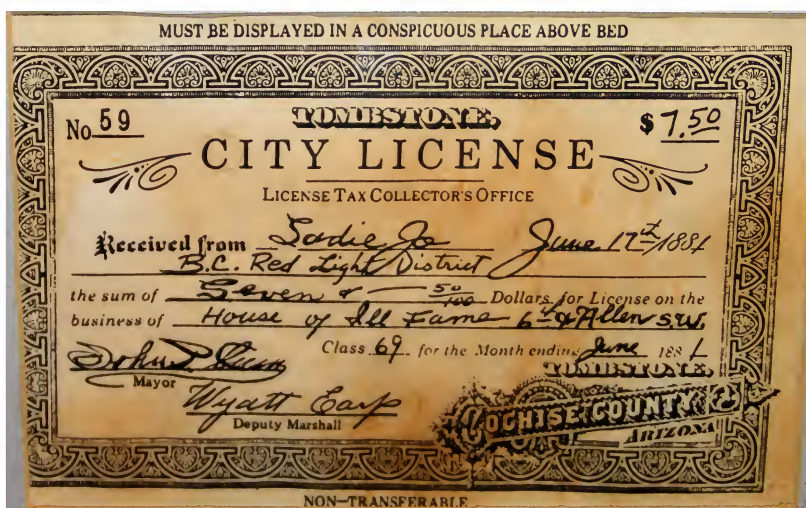
visiting the same 14-year-old prostitute, Sadie Mansfield who

coincidentally shares many life parallels with Josie Earp.



Josephine Earp or Sadie Mansfield?

There is no solid proof that Sadie Mansfield is in fact Josie Earp, however, the years between 1874-1882 are a chunk of Earp's life that are non-existent according to records. When asked about this time in her life, she recounts in her memoir that it was one big "bad dream." It is widely speculated that Sadie Mansfield was in fact the alias of Josephine Sarah Marcuse. "Sadie" was a well-known nickname for Sarah, and it was common for prostitutes to change their first name. Sadie Mansfield and Sadie Marcuse both made a stagecoach journey from San Francisco to Arizona Territory, both became sexual partners of Johnny Behan, both 19 years old, born in New York City, and had parents from Prussia. It seems pretty safe to say that Josie's lost years were spent at working at a brothel in Arizona under the name of Sadie Mansfield.



A document allegedly showing Sadie's tax records in Tombstone, 1881. Source: Flickr

In 1880, records show that a Miss Sadie Mansfield was working for Johnny Behan at the Grand Hotel in Tombstone, Arizona, when she allegedly caught the eye of a man named Wyatt Earp, a name as legendary at Tombstone itself.

According to those close to Earp, he pursued the young

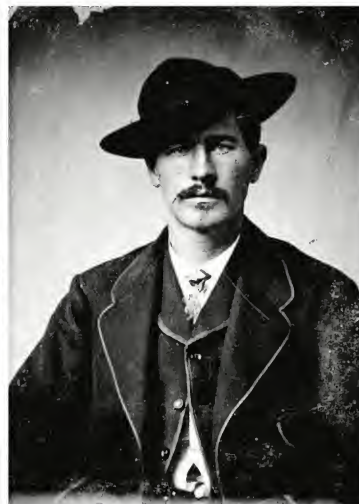
courtesan, despite his own common law marriage to another and her relationship with Johnny Behan, his political and personal antagonist. By the summer of 1882, Sadie was married to Wyatt Earp, the famous gambler and deputy sheriff, who would lead the most famous shootout in the history of the American Wild West. The ceremony allegedly took place on a yacht off the California coast but no public record of their marriage has ever been found.

After the legendary gunfight in Tombstone that lasted only 30 seconds, but would up defining Earp for the rest of his life, Earp and his new common law wife Sadie (a.k.a Josie) traveled around the west, scoring money in the gold rush and by investing in properties. Sadie apparently gambled their money recklessly and had to be cut off from their finances. Their marriage was quite rocky according to friends and family. After a stint in Alaska during the mining boom, the Earp's returned with nearly \$80,000 (\$2.3 million today), which they lived off for most of their lives. However, during the last years of her husband's life, she gambled away the last of their money,





Tombstone, Arizona



Wyatt Earp

leaving them both destitute.

When Wyatt died, Sadie didn't attend the funeral or help with it – she claimed she was too shocked and devastated. “She didn't go to his funeral. She wasn't that upset. She was peculiar,” said Grace Spolidora, a family friend who spent a lot of time with the Earp's. “I don't

think she was that devastated when he died.” After Wyatt's death, she stopped going by “Sadie” and told everyone to call her Josie. She hated the name Sadie.



In a rare photo of the couple together, Josie Marcus sits with Wyatt Earp in their desert camp at their Happy Days gold mine, across the river from Parker, Arizona, in the 1920s © Jeff Morey

Three years after his death, a best-selling book about Earp was published by Stuart Lake in 1931. Stuart Lake once said “Johnny Behan's girl” (Sadie) was “the key to the whole yarn of Tombstone”. In an effort to control and sanitize her husband's story and more importantly, to keep her own murky past a secret, Sadie threatened litigation against anyone who tried to tell their story. She succeeded in refuting claims that the great Wyatt Earp was ever a drinker, gambler, saloon-keeper and even a brothel-keeper. Strong evidence suggests however, that the Earps had quite the colourful resumé.



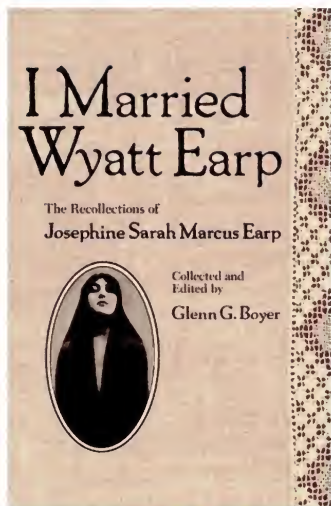
Wyatt's saloon in Tonopah, Nevada in 1902. It's very likely that his wife, Josie, is on the horse on the left.

Finding an authenticated photograph of the elusive Josephine Earp is also quite a challenge. The photographs you've been looking at in this article have all purported to be of Josephine at one time or another, but the true provenance for many of them remains unconfirmed.

Josephine's cousins had attempted to document her life after Wyatt's death, recording events in her later life, but found Josephine to be extremely evasive and imprecise when talking about her early life in Tombstone and the Arizona Territory. They finally abandoned their efforts and the manuscript was left unfinished.

In 1974, an American writer and Wild West enthusiast Glenn Boyer published *I Married Wyatt Earp*, a memoir based on various manuscripts, hand-written notes and material supposedly written by Josephine and close friends during her lifetime.





The memoir became the second-best selling book about Wyatt Earp, selling over 35,000 copies. It was frequently referenced by scholars and filmmakers. Prior to writing the book, Glenn had been contacted by Wyatt's relations who had known "Aunt Josie" in the 1930s, and accumulated 32 boxes of family pictures, correspondence, hand-written notes, audio recordings, memorabilia, along with manuscripts that he used as source material for several books.

As ever, in the search for the truth about Josephine, her story was once again brought into question in 1994, when critics began discrediting Glenn Boyer's work as largely fictional. Just like Josephine, he was accused of inventing large parts of her life, even inventing sources entirely. The University of Arizona, Boyer's embarrassed publisher, was forced to remove the book from their catalogue. In an interview, Boyer later said, "I have never promoted myself as a historian. So I put words in Josephine's mouth. So what? Stuart Lake did it. I admit to making it interesting enough to be read, which it appears to be alleged is unethical".

It almost seems as if the web of lies Josephine Earp left behind will forever prevent us from knowing her truth. Just as she intended.



Authenticated photograph of  
Josephine Earp

Master of deception, Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp died in Los Angeles on December 20, 1944, without a penny to her name, she was buried with her truth.

2016 - 13 THINGS LTD. All rights reserved.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

[LOGIN](#) [REGISTER](#) [ABOUT](#) [LINKS](#) [MEDIA](#) [EVENTS](#) [FORUMS](#) [CONTACT](#) [EVENTS](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#)

Enter your keywords

[NEWS](#) [HUMAN ORIGINS](#) [HISTORY](#) [ARTIFACTS](#) [MYTHS](#) [ANCIENT PLACES](#) [UNEXPLAINED](#) [OPINION](#)[General](#) [History & Archaeology](#) [Science & Space](#) [Evolution & Human Origins](#) [Mysterious Phenomena](#)[Home / News](#)

12 JUNE, 2016 - 03:52 DHWTY

## Shinigami: The Grim Reaper of Japanese Folklore

[\(Read the article on one page\)](#)

The Shinigami (translated as *death god* or *death spirit*) are supernatural figures found in Japanese folklore. The Shinigami are spirits related to death, and it may be said that the western counterpart of the Shinigami is the Grim Reaper, though, as we shall see, there are some distinct differences between the two. Additionally, the Shinigami did not exist in traditional Japanese folklore, and only came into being later on when the country came into contact with western cultures. Nevertheless, these spirits have gained a considerable amount of popularity over the centuries, as may be attested in their presence in Japanese pop culture today.

### Grim Reaper

The Shinigami are said to have entered Japanese folklore around the 18th or 19th century. During this period of time, ideas from the West, in particular Christian ideas, interacted with the traditional Shinto, Buddhist and Taoist beliefs. One of the results of this interaction was the creation of the Shinigami. Whilst the Shinigami are similar to the Grim Reaper, they are not entirely alike, and a few important differences between the two may be seen.

## Trending Articles Sponsored

Rare Photos from the Old  
Wild West That Will Leave

The Biggest Stock Alert of  
2017?

Test Your Knowledge Of The  
Bible [Quiz]

## SUGGESTED BOOKS

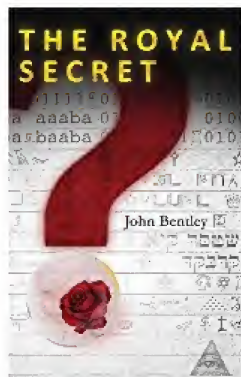


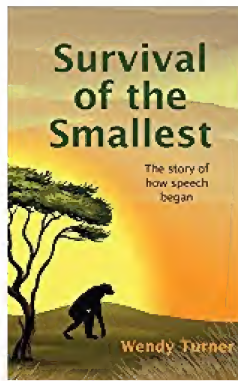
Illustration of the Grim Reaper. ([Image source](#))

For a start, in western belief, the Grim Reaper is regarded as a terrifying being, and as the personification of Death itself. In Japanese folklore, on the other hand, death is seen less as an individual, and more as a part of the natural cycle of life. Thus, the Shinigami are regarded as agents who facilitate the smooth running of this cycle.

- [Beware of Cat: Tales of the Wicked Japanese Bakeneko and Nekomata – Part Two](#)
- [The Age of the Gods: The Legendary History of Japan](#)

Unlike the Grim Reaper, who may be described as a 'harvester of souls', the Shinigami merely ensure that people die at the appointed time, and then escorted their souls into the afterlife. Additionally, whilst the Grim Reaper is depicted as singular, it is believed that there are many Shinigami, and that they usually work in pairs.

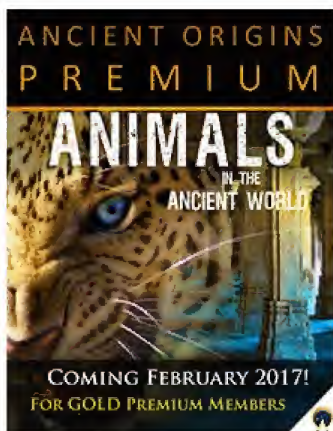




### ACTIVE FORUM TOPICS

- **UFO ORIGIN & THE END TIMES**
- Please introduce yourself
- Identifying Petroglyph
- Mishkan @ Heelstone
- Zoroaster Created Judeo Christian Religions
- Pyramids are not tombs, but homes for gods.

[More](#)



[REMOVE ADS](#)



"Shinigami" from the Ehon Hyaku Monogatari. By Shunsensai Takehara. (Public Domain)

### Stories of the Shinigami

In one traditional tale, a man who is fed up with his life prepares to commit suicide. Before he could do so, however, he is visited by a Shinigami, who tells him that his time has not yet come. The Shinigami also explains that each life is measured on a candle, and once the flame burns out, the person dies (This shows that the Shinigami have no control over who lives and dies). To stop the man from committing suicide, the Shinigami tells him an easy way to make money.

The man is told that he could pretend to be a doctor who could cure any form of disease. By speaking some magic words, a Shinigami can be forced back into the Underworld, thus lengthening a person's life. The man is also informed that this would only work if the Shinigami is sitting at the foot of the bed. If the Shinigami is sitting at the head of the bed, however, it means that the sick person must die. Using this new found knowledge, the man grew very rich.

- **Bringing the Secret Story of Shadows to Light**
- **17th Century Sickle Burials Reflect Belief that Demons Stalked War-Torn Poland**

One day, the man is called to a house to cure someone. When he enters, he sees that the Shinigami is sitting on the head of patient's bed, indicating that death was certain. The family pleaded and begged, and offered him a large amount of money. Consumed by greed, the man decides to take a risk, and when the Shinigami dozes off, he quickly switches the orientation of the patient's bed, thus saving his / her life.

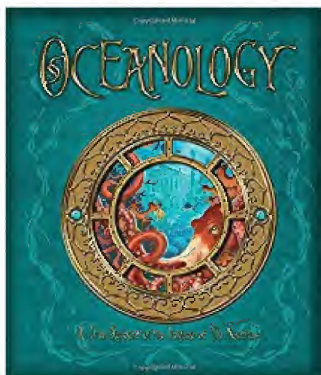
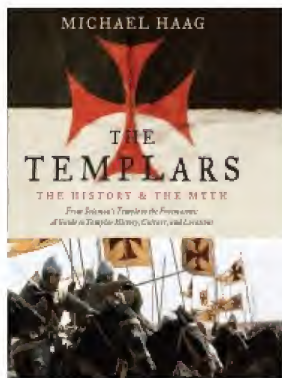
## Trending Articles

Sponsored

Rare Photos from the Old  
Wild West That Will Leave

The Biggest Stock Alert of  
2017?

## SUGGESTED BOOKS



REMOVE ADS

## SUGGESTED BOOKS



Patient's death-bed. (CC BY 4.0)

The Shinigami is obviously unhappy with what he did, and when the man reaches home, criticizes him for his disobedience. The Shinigami then changes his tone, and suggest that they go out for a drink to celebrate his earnings. The man falls for the trick, and the Shinigami brings him to a building that is filled with candles. The Shinigami then shows the man his candle, which is nearly burnt out as a result of what he had just done. The man is then offered a chance to extend his life by transferring the wick and wax of his candle to another's. The man fails in this attempt, as he drops his candle and dies.

### The Shinigami Today

The Shinigami have kept up with the times, and have often been featured in modern Japanese anime and manga. These include *Death Note*, *Bleach*, *Naruto*, and *Soul Eater*. It may be mentioned that in each of these anime / manga, the Shinigami are often given roles that are quite different from their traditional ones. Apart from their association with death, it may be said that these modern Shinigami do not have much in common with their traditional counterparts.

Top image: Picture of a Shinigami by **Liger-Inuzuka**. Photo source: (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)

By **Wu Mingren**

### References

Brigham Young University, 2014. *Japanese Folklore*. [Online]

Available at: <http://sites.lib.byu.edu/worldhistory/folklore-william-a-wilson-folklore-archives/popular-search-topics/east-asian-folklore/japanese-folklore/>

japanesemythology.weebly.com, 2016. *Kami and Other Spirits*. [Online]

Available at: <http://japanesemythology.weebly.com/lesson-4.html>

Kincaid, A., 2013. *Shinigami—Angels of Death*. [Online]

Available at: <http://www.japanpowered.com/anime-articles/shinigami-angels-of-death>

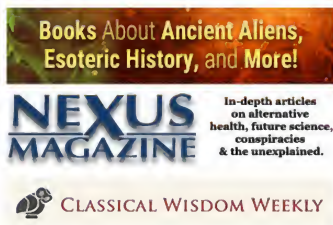
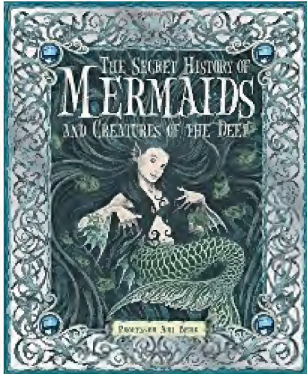
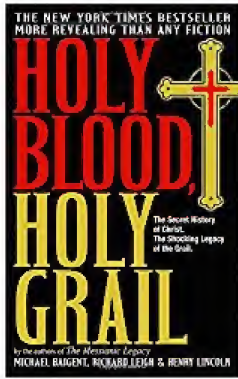
Origins Scientific Research Society, 2014. *The Underworld Come to Life: Meet the Shinigami*. [Online]

Available at: <http://www.knowyourorigins.org/the-underworld-come-to-life/shinigami>

tvtropes.org, 2016. *Shinigami*. [Online]

Available at: <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Shinigami>





## Section:

[News](#) [Myths & Legends](#)

## Tags:

[death](#) [Shinigami](#) [grim reaper](#) [Underworld](#) [dead](#) [kami](#) [japan](#) [Folklore](#)  
[supernatural](#) [spirit](#)


**Register** to become part of our active community, get updates, receive a monthly newsletter, and enjoy the benefits and rewards of our **member point system** OR just post your comment below as a **Guest**.

Your name \*

E-mail \*

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Homepage

☐ Notify me when new comments are posted

Subject

Comment \*

Allowed HTML tags: <a> <em> <strong> <cite>  
 <blockquote> <code> <ul> <ol> <li> <dl> <dt>  
 <dd>

[More information about text formats](#)

No HTML tags allowed.

Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.

Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

By submitting this form, you accept the [Mollom privacy policy](#).



## You May Like

Sponsored

**Reverse Your Hair Loss  
With Brilliant Home Remedy**

**Warning: Don't Use  
Probiotics Before You See**

**Say "Bye Bye" To Skin Tags  
and Moles**

**1 Simple Trick Removes Eye  
Bags & Lip Lines In**

**The Easiest Way To Shed  
Deep Fat?**

**(1) Odd Diabetes Trick  
"Kills" Diabetes Industry**

## RELATED ANCIENT ORIGINS ARTICLES



Get our Newsletter

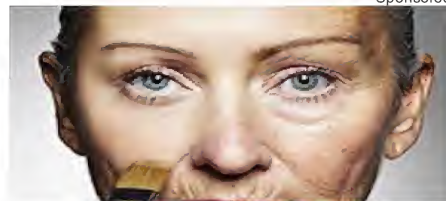
Login AO – Login Premium

REMOVE ADS

## MOST READ TODAY

- Celtic Secrets in Enchanting Gold, What is the Story Behind the Braganza Brooch?
- The Spellbinding Story of Circe, Goddess of Magic
- The Legendary Prophetess Veleda: A Secret Weapon Against the Romans
- Phoenicians: Creating what is now known as the Alphabet
- The Windover Bog Bodies, Among the Greatest Archeological Discoveries Ever Unearthed in the United States
- Impressively Large Jade Pendant with Unique Inscription Discovered in Belize

REMOVE ADS



How To Remove Eye Bags & Lip Lines  
Fast (Watch)



Say "Bye Bye" To Skin Tags and Moles



Simple Method "Regrows" a Full Head of  
Hair (Try It Tonight)

**ANCIENT ORIGINS  
PREMIUM**  
TALK TO AN EXPERT

The Secret Mounds  
& Mathematics  
of Ancient Giants

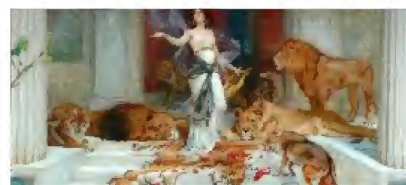
**UNCOVERING FORBIDDEN ZONES**

February 28, 2017  
6:00pm EST

with  
**Fritz Zimmerman**

## VIRAL ARTICLES

Legends Technology Ancient Places



### The Spellbinding Story of Circe, Goddess of Magic

Circe was a goddess of magic and she continues to be one of the most enchanting deities of ancient Greek mythology. This

daughter of Helios and patron of ancient Greek witches still fascinates people...

**The Mysterious Secret Society of Ancient India and The Nine Unknown Men of Ashoka**

**The Last of the Siberian Unicorns: What Happened to the Mammoth-Sized One-Horned Beasts of Legend?**

**Ancient Demons and Their Infernal Legacy**

**Shinigami: The Grim Reaper of Japanese Folklore**

**Lilith: Ancient Demon, Dark Deity or Sex Goddess?**

REMOVE ADS

Sponsored



The Easiest Way To Shed Deep Fat?

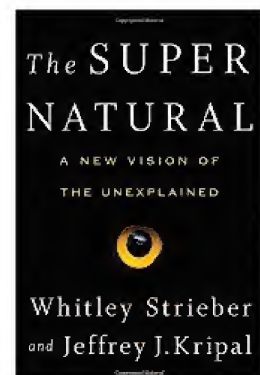


1 Simple Trick Removes Eye Bags & Lip Lines In Seconds

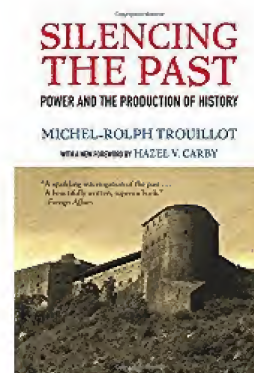


(1) Odd Diabetes Trick "Kills" Diabetes Industry

## SUGGESTED BOOKS







## TOP NEW STORIES



### Celtic Secrets in Enchanting Gold, What is the Story Behind the Braganza Brooch?

The story of a warrior and animals depicted in a small but gorgeous ancient fibula increases the pulse of researchers and others who are passionate about Celtic history. Of the dozens of precious...

### The Legendary Prophetess Veleda: A Secret Weapon Against the Romans

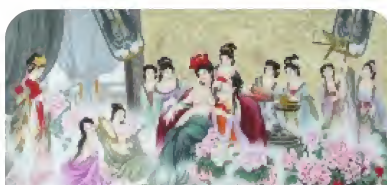
### Impressively Large Jade Pendant with Unique Inscription Discovered in Belize

### Shah Cheragh and The Dazzling Dome of Mirrors

### What Pearls of Wisdom are Held in the Animal Tales of the Panchatantra?

### What English Site is So Favored that Human Activity Spans Across 12,000 Years There?

## HUMAN ORIGINS



### The secret life of an ancient concubine

In many ancient cultures and religious traditions, rulers and elite members of society not only had wives, they also had concubines. Concubines normally served a dual purpose – to increase a man's...

### Pharaoh Akhenaten: A Different View of the Heretic King

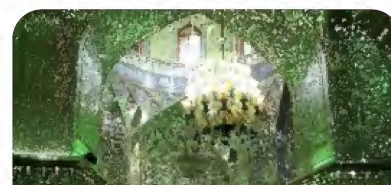
### Those Who Once Reigned: Experts Name Famous and Forgotten Ancient Gods

### Howling Against the Moon: The Last Wolves of Ireland

### The origins of human beings according to ancient Sumerian texts

### Startling Similarity between Hindu Flood Legend of Manu and the Biblical Account of Noah

## ANCIENT PLACES



### Shah Cheragh and The Dazzling Dome of Mirrors

Shah Cheragh is a religious monument located in Shiraz, the capital of the Fars Province in the southern part of Iran. The story of its founding and its awe-inspiring decoration have made it one of...

### The Magnificent Tomb and Treasures of Forgotten Couple Yuya and Tuya

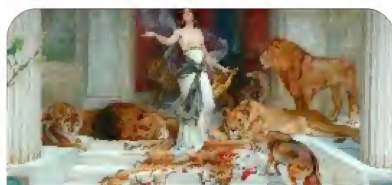
### Evidence of Ancient Megalithic Culture in Massachusetts Revealed For the First Time

### The Library of Pergamum: A Contender for the Greatest Library of the Ancient World

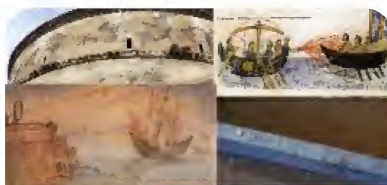
### The White Slaves of Barbary

### Axum: Legendary Kingdom of Ancient Ethiopia

## MYTHS & LEGENDS



## ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY



## OPINION



## The Spellbinding Story of Circe, Goddess of Magic

Circe was a goddess of magic and she continues to be one of the most enchanting deities of ancient Greek mythology. This daughter of Helios and patron of ancient Greek witches still fascinates people...

## The Mysterious Secret Society of Ancient India and The Nine Unknown Men of Ashoka

### The Last of the Siberian Unicorns: What Happened to the Mammoth-Sized One-Horned Beasts of Legend?

### Ancient Demons and Their Infernal Legacy

### Shinigami: The Grim Reaper of Japanese Folklore

### Lilith: Ancient Demon, Dark Deity or Sex Goddess?

## 6 Advanced Ancient Inventions Beyond Modern Understanding

We've lost the secret to making some of history's most useful inventions, and for all of our ingenuity and discoveries, our ancestors of thousands of years ago are still able to baffle us with their ingenuity and discoveries. We have developed the modern equivalent of some of these inventions, but only very recently.

### Ten amazing inventions from ancient times

### Ancient Healing Methods Offer an Alternative Paradigm in Health

### 150,000-Year-Old Pipes Baffle Scientists in China: Out of Place in Time?

### An Undersea Mystery: The Accidental Discovery of the Ghost Ship in the Baltic Sea

### They're Alive! Megalithic Sites Are More than Just Stone

## The Rome of America: What Lies Under Teotihuacan? – The Real City of the Gods

At its peak, around 200 AD, Teotihuacan counted a population of well over 125,000, boasted hundreds of temples and palaces, and three massive pyramids named after the Sun, the Moon, and the Feathered...

### The Search for a Legendary Land: Does the Truth of Plato's Atlantis Rest on a Shifting Sea Floor?

### Who Pulled the Sword from the Stone? The Truth of the Swords of King Arthur

### A History of Hamilcar: Akre Leuca, Dream City of Hamilcar Barca– Part II

### A History of Hamilcar: The Legend of Cardoso and a Lost Carthaginian City – Part I

### Unearthing Ancient Magic in The Runes –Messages with Hidden Symbols and Powerful Numbers

## OUR MISSION

At Ancient Origins, we believe that one of the most important fields of knowledge we can pursue as human beings is our beginnings. And while some people may seem content with the story as it stands, our view is that there exists countless mysteries, scientific anomalies and surprising artifacts that have yet to be discovered and explained.

The goal of Ancient Origins is to highlight recent archaeological discoveries, peer-reviewed academic research and evidence, as well as offering alternative viewpoints and explanations of science, archaeology, mythology, religion and history around the globe.

We're the only Pop Archaeology site combining scientific research with out-of-the-box perspectives.

By bringing together top experts and authors, this archaeology website explores lost civilizations, examines sacred writings, tours ancient places, investigates ancient discoveries and questions mysterious happenings. Our open community is dedicated to digging into the origins of our species on planet earth, and question wherever the discoveries might take us. We seek to retell the story of our beginnings.

## ANCIENT IMAGE GALLERIES



Ancient Origins © 2013 - 2017

**Disclaimer - Terms of Publication - Privacy Policy & Cookies - Advertising Policy - We Give Back - Contact us**

A project of **Stella Novus** - Development and Customization by **Novus Web Solutions**



## Shin-kicking contest cancelled due to health and safety concerns

metro.co.uk

Fiona Parker for Metro.co.uk Saturday 8 Apr 2017 3:37 pm



*Shin-kicking contest cancelled due to health and safety concerns*

The event had to be given the boot (Pictures: Getty)

Organisers of an annual shin-kicking contest have had to cancel the event, because of increasing health and safety regulations.

Ever since 1612 the unusual sport has been practiced on Dover's Hill, near Chipping Camden, as part of the 'Cotsworld Olympics'.

Tug of war and sack racing contests also take place.

But the 400-year-old tradition is now facing an

uncertain future, according to the BBC.

Organisers say 'dwindling numbers of attendees' and increasing safety requirements mean they can't afford to stage the games on June 2.



*Shin-kicking contest cancelled due to health and safety concerns*

It's a 400-year-old tradition (Picture: Getty)  
The organisers hope the event will run next year. (Picture: Getty)

Shin-kicking, the highlight of the spring bank holiday event, involves athletes stuffing their trouser legs with straw before kicking each other.

In the past, more than 5,000 spectators have attended the event.

Chairman, Graham Greenall said: 'Dwindling numbers of attendees since the peak of 2012, and increasing requirements as far as health and safety is concerned, have meant that as it stands we don't have the money to continue past one year's games.'

'Rather than put on a half-cocked games [this year], we've decided to suspend it and begin a debate on the whole future of the games.'

'It is for this reason that the decision has been made to cancel this year's event, in order that the long term future of this ancient tradition





*Shin-kicking contest cancelled due to health and safety concerns* can be hopefully saved, developed and brought back in 2018 on a stronger footing.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Swede detained after Barcelona police fire on stolen butane gas truck - BBC News

bbc.com

Police in Barcelona have detained a man after shooting at a truck loaded with butane gas canisters that was speeding the wrong way along a highway.

They opened fire on the vehicle as it headed towards the Spanish city's harbour on Tuesday, officials said.

The detained man, reported to be a Swedish national, has a history of psychiatric problems, the Spanish interior minister said.

Barcelona's city hall said the truck had been stolen.

Police started pursuing the vehicle after the driver, who was travelling at high speeds, failed to stop when ordered to do so, regional police chief Joan Carles Molinero said.

The driver then turned to make his way along the wrong side of a ring road in the city, finally coming to a stop when the truck hit a wall at about 11:00 local time (10:00 GMT).

Image caption



Image copyright Reuters  
Image caption

Around 20 officers and at least six police cars arrived quickly on site, where several gas bottles were later seen lying on the ground.

At least one gunshot was visible on the windscreen of the truck, although officials have not said whether there were any injuries following the incident.

*The truck was driving against traffic on the wrong side of a ring road on Tuesday*

Spanish national television TVE reported that the truck had rammed several cars before police fired several times to stop it.

Spain's interior minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said in a tweet that the incident on Tuesday was "not a case of a terrorist act".

"The detained driver of the stolen butane gas truck has a psychiatric history," Mr Zoido said.

Mireia Ruiz, who witnessed the incident, said the driver ignored others who were urging him to stop.

"When people shouted at him, he would laugh and make offensive gestures with his hand," she told AFP.

Police said that the 32-year-old driver was being questioned.

Image copyright Reuters

## DWR biologist, shot with bear tranquilizer dart, recovering at home

sltrib.com



By BOB MIMSThe Salt Lake Tribune

First Published Mar 15 2017 11:15AM• Last Updated Mar 16 2017 09:56 am

Sometimes you get the bear. Sometimes the guy whose supposed to get the bear with a tranquilizer dart gun gets you instead.

That is what happened earlier this week when a state wildlife biologist joined six other division employees visiting bear dens in eastern Utah's remote Book Cliffs region.

The unidentified 20-year Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) veteran — recovering at home Wednesday after spending a night in Provo's Utah Valley Regional Medical Center — was part of a team monitoring black bear survival and reproduction rates.

The bears are located by tracking their previously attached radio collars, and the plan is to dart and tranquilize the animals to allow for a quick physical exam, replacement of worn transmitters and identification of new cubs.

At about noon Tuesday, the team located the den of a sow and her two cubs, born last winter. "We were curious to see if the cubs had survived," said Dax Mangus, regional wildlife manager for the DWR.

"We successfully darted the collared female and noticed one yearling bear also in the den with her," he added. "We loaded another dart and were ready to dart the yearling when the dart accidentally discharged and struck the biologist in his hand."

Team members are trained to provide emergency aid in such cases, and they acted quickly, Mangus said.

"We had only 15 to 20 minutes before he possibly lost consciousness, so we knew we had to act fast. We didn't have any cell service," he explained. "And, in the steep, timbered canyon, we knew we couldn't safely land a medical helicopter. So, we made a plan."

Three team members climbed to the top of a nearby ridge, got a cell signal and called for a medical helicopter to land there. Two other team members hiked back to their vehicles as a backstop measure, and the remaining employees gathered the team's gear.

The wounded biologist hiked to the top of the ridge on his own and was flown to the hospital for treatment. After an overnight stay, he was released Wednesday morning.

DWR officials declined to identify the biologist and asked news media not to attempt to interview him, at least for now.

"[He] needs time to rest and recover," DWR spokesman Mark Hadley said.

remims@sltrib.com

Missing your paper? Need to place your paper on vacation hold? For this and any other subscription related needs, [click here](#) or call 801.204.6100

Copyright © 2017, The Salt Lake Tribune

*The Salt Lake Tribune*



## Siberian crater mystery: Are exploding gas pockets really to blame?

By Stephanie Pappas *Livescience.com* March 29, 2017, 11:21 AM

cbsnews.com



A crater on the Yamal Peninsula in Siberia. Scientists aren't sure what caused these craters to form in the Siberian Arctic, where the permafrost is thawing.

Is the Siberian permafrost exploding? Recent reports out of the Arctic Circle suggest that methane pockets are erupting and causing huge craters, but scientists aren't so sure that these features are necessarily the result of detonations — or that they are even new.

A *Siberian Times* article suggested that

7,000 underground gas bubbles are set to “explode” on the peninsulas of Yamal and Gydan as a result of melting permafrost. The article differentiates these small gas bubbles from enormous craters in the tundra landscape, but asserts that the huge craters are the result of subsurface methane gas exploding as global warming heats up Earth. That is far from certain, scientists told Live Science. In fact, the craters may be thousands of years old.

“These craters are recently discovered by scientists,” said Katey Walter Anthony, a biogeochemist at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, who studies methane release from permafrost. “It doesn't mean they are new.” [See Photos of Siberia's Mysterious Craters]

### Thawing Siberia

First, the facts: The permafrost of the Siberian tundra is definitely thawing. Permafrost is soil that stays frozen year-round; it locks up organic materials like dead plants (or the corpses of mammoths) and keeps them from rotting. When the permafrost thaws, all that organic material starts to decompose, like food left too long in a broken refrigerator. The decomposition releases carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, all potent greenhouse gases. Climate scientists agree that the permafrost melt will amplify the effects of greenhouse gases released by human activities, which could worsen the amount of warming the planet experiences.

This methane from decomposition of ancient organic material shouldn't be confused with methane hydrates, which are ice lattices that have methane trapped inside. Melting methane hydrates are another concern for the climate because their thaw could also release more of that greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

The most pervasive route for permafrost thaw in Siberia is what's called active-layer deepening, said Ben Abbott, a postdoctoral researcher at Michigan State University. Every summer, the top layer of permafrost that thaws gets deeper and deeper.

“That's happening across the Arctic and boreal forests,” Abbott told Live Science.

More dramatic are collapse features, known as thermokarsts. When frozen-solid soil melts, it can collapse in many ways, Walter Anthony told Live Science, creating landslides, lakes, pits, even underground tunnels. [Mysterious Giant Hole In Siberia Investigated By Scientists | Video]

Vasily Bogoyavlensky, a researcher at Moscow's Oil and Gas Research Institute, told the *Siberian Times* that giant craters observed in Siberia over the past few years could be thermokarsts created when decomposition gases, such as methane, put pressure on the overlying earth, causing dirt-covered ice hills called pingos to explode. But even if the craters are caused by melting permafrost, that mechanism of formation is just speculation, Abbott said.

"Nobody has seen one [form], so we don't know if it is an explosion or just a collapse," Abbott said.

Nor are the craters necessarily human-caused. After all, permafrost has been melting since the end of the last ice age more than 10,000 years ago.

"I am thinking that people need to be a little more careful about claiming that we have methane explosions," Walter Anthony said.

### **A changing tundra**

Meanwhile, researchers with the Russian Academy of Sciences said they have found thousands of small underground gas pockets with high levels of methane and carbon dioxide dotting the landscape and are assessing these spots for stability, the Siberian Times reported. Another recent article claims that more than 200 Arctic lakes are "bubbling like Jacuzzis" with methane gas.

It's not time to panic, though. The aerial images used to find the bubbling lakes reveal little about what's actually bubbling up, Walter Anthony said: The seeps could be methane, or other gases, or just groundwater. Without fieldwork, she said, any attempt to identify the bubbles is just guesswork.

Of course, thousands of gas pockets in the tundra could be alarming, Abbott said, but given the size and inaccessibility of the Siberian Arctic, researchers have little knowledge of what a normal number of these features might be.

"I certainly don't want to give the impression that we should dismiss these features or not think they are potentially dangerous in terms of the climate system and in terms of local ecosystems, but I also don't think it's the beginning of the end," Abbott said.

Though permafrost melting could be a scary contributor to climate change, Abbott and his colleagues surveyed permafrost researchers last year for a paper published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*; they found that most believed the tundra has not yet hit the "point of no return" at which runaway melt is inevitable.

Permafrost is sensitive to temperature, Abbott said, but it also has a huge amount of momentum: There are places where deep permafrost is actually getting colder because it is only now "feeling" the chill of the last ice age through the intervening layers of soil. If humans were to control greenhouse gas emissions so that they begin to decline by the middle of the century, most of the carbon in the permafrost will stay frozen.

"The key is really limiting human emissions as quickly as possible, because in 30 or 40 or 50 years from now, if we have gone past that point, there will be nothing we can do about it," Abbott said. "The flip side of a system with a lot of momentum is that once it starts moving, there is little you can do to slow it down."

*Original article on Live Science.*

---

*Livescience.com. All rights reserved.*

## Smurfette removed from movie posters in ultra-Orthodox city in Israel

foxnews.com

Israel's pious ultra-Orthodox Jewish community has long chafed at public displays of women, whether the images are of female public figures or ordinary women.

Now even animated characters appear to be a no-go.

The PR company promoting "Smurfs: The Lost Village" movie, which opens Thursday in Israel, says it has removed the images of Smurfette — the only female among the Smurf characters — from promo posters in the central Israeli city of Bnei Brak.

The Mirka'im-Hutzot Zahav company says it did so as not to offend the city's ultra-Orthodox residents.

According to The Times of Israel, Bnei Brak has an ordinance to prevent hanging posters of women that "might incite the feelings of the city's residents."

The original poster shows Smurfette alongside friends Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty. But in Bnei Brak, she's nowhere to be found.

The ultra-Orthodox press in Israel has previously avoided publishing pictures of Hillary Clinton during last year's American presidential race.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

---

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. ©2017 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. All market data delayed 20 minutes.



## Sneaky raccoon breaks into New York bank to ride out snowstorm

upi.com



A raccoon snuck into a New York bank to keep warm while a snowstorm raged outdoors. A passerby spotted the animal intruder and alerted authorities, who arrived to remove the animal the next day. Screen capture/WNYW/Inform Inc.

March 16 (UPI) -- A sneaky raccoon broke into a New York bank to stay warm in the midst of a snowstorm.

Passerby Marc Elkaim spotted the mischievous raccoon in the window of the

Chase Bank location in Forest Hills, Queens.

"I was just walking into my apartment and to the right is Chase, and I saw this raccoon — that was so strange," he said.

Elkaim, 50, speculated the raccoon made its way into the bank to find shelter and warmth as a snowstorm blew through the area.

"It was warm inside and probably felt comfortable," he said. "It was making its way up the chair on the branch representative's desk and into the window to see us."

Elkaim and his wife contacted 911, who speculated the curious critter managed to sneak into the bank through a hole in the roof.

The next day a trapper captured the raccoon and released it on private property a few miles away from the bank.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## French police sniper shoots two in error at Hollande speech - BBC News [bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)

---

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39121997>



A French police sniper has accidentally shot and injured two people during a speech by President Francois Hollande in western France.

The shot was fired as the officer moved position on a roof about 100m (328ft) from a tent where Mr Hollande was speaking in the town of Villognon.

The bullet went through the canvas of the tent, where drinks were being made. It passed through a waiter's thigh and lodged in another person's calf.

The injuries were not life-threatening.

Mr Hollande was inaugurating a new stretch of railway when a gunshot was heard. He interrupted his speech for a few moments but reports say there was no panic.

"I hope it's nothing serious - I think not," Mr Hollande said as he paused his address to ask whether anyone had been hurt.

The president later visited the injured - the head waiter of a local hotel and an employee of a railway maintenance company.

One local report said the safety catch of the sniper's weapon had been unlocked, allowing the gun to be discharged accidentally.

Local government chief Pierre N'Gahane said a judicial investigation had been launched.

Asked if the officer had fired accidentally, he was quoted by the Associated Press news agency as saying: "Yes, without doubt."

The marksman is based with a special protection unit in nearby Poitiers, officials said.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Snooki's \$32K Rutgers fee sparks bill limiting college speaking fees

20:48 EDT, 23 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

She is the reality television personality who sparked controversy after extracting thousands more than a Nobel Prize-winning author to deliver a college speech.

And the \$32,000 Jersey Shore star Snooki raked in from speaking at Rutgers University has led to the approval on Thursday of a bill limiting what New Jersey public colleges can pay speakers.

The Democrat-controlled Assembly unanimously passed legislation to cap the spending of state money at \$10,000.

University challenge: A mammoth fee paid to Jersey Shore's Snooki led to the approval of a bill limiting what New Jersey public colleges can pay speakers on Thursday

Republican Assemblyman John DiMaio said he was inspired to write the measure after the TV star, real name Nicole LaValle, was paid \$32,000 collected from student fees to speak at a student event at Rutgers University in 2011

Her fee was \$2,000 more than Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison received to speak at commencement.

The measure was already approved unanimously in June by the state's Democrat-led Senate.

However passage of the measure is not definite yet, as Governor Chris Christie said Thursday he would not 'waste' his time on it, even though he added he will 'consider it when it comes to my desk.'

Marketplace of ideas? She was paid cash collected from student fees to speak at a student event at Rutgers University in 2011

He added: 'I've got much bigger issues to be concerned about in a state with a \$35 billion budget, with all the different challenges and opportunities we have, than to be worried about micromanaging what universities in the state decide to pay their commencement speakers.'

Ironically the political heavyweight previously slated Jersey Shore, claiming it was bad for the state's image.

Speaking about the cast, who became national stars due to their booze-fuelled antics, he previously said, 'Take them back. We don't want them.'

Not out of the woods yet: Governor Chris Christie has said he would not 'waste' time on Republican Assemblyman John DiMaio's measure

And in 2010 when he discovered the show was still eligible for a \$420,000 tax credit, he vetoed it.

At the time he tweeted: 'Today I stopped tax dollars from being wasted on programs that don't work & that subsidize projects like Jersey Shore.'

Rutgers university spokeswoman Karen Smith said, according to AP, that it offers honorariums for commencement speakers paid for with money from its beverage contract with Coca-Cola and does not pay them using state money.



She added that student groups that invite speakers to campus pay them with money from student fees, mandatory fees paid by students, not from state funding.

No big fan: Governor Christie, seen here with Snooki and JWoww in 2013, previously said of the cast, 'Take them back. We don't want them'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## The snuff-eating nose centipede - Thomas Morris

thomas-morris.uk



Here's an alarming pair of cases reported in the first volume of the *Medical Essays and Observations*, published in 1764:

*A woman of a good heal constitution, and about thirty-six years old, began to complain of a fixed pain in the lower and right side of her forehead.*

The adjective 'heal', an archaic form, means 'whole' or 'healthy'.

*During the two last years this pain became continual, accompanied with convulsions, often depriving her of both her reason and rest. She was two or three times brought to death's door by it. At the end of four years, after trying several medicines to no purpose, and despairing of any relief, and yet not knowing what to do, she took to taking rapee-snuff.*

## *A Worm of the Centipede Kind discharged from the frontal Sinus, 1708.*

Rapé  
is the

*A worm of the centipede kind*

Spanish name for snuff. Today the word is also used to denote a medicinal herbal concoction used by certain indigenous tribes of South America – but in this case the snuff was probably just powdered tobacco.

*She had not taken this snuff for a month, when behold seized one morning with a fit of sneezing, and blowing her nose after, to her great surprize she sound a worm rolled up in a little blood.*

Not the sort of surprise one particularly appreciates.

*This worm when stretched to its full length, was six inches long, and but two when it contracted itself. It was two lines broad, and one and a half thick, of a coffee-colour, convex on one side, and flat on the other. It was of the centipede kind, had fifty-six feet on each side. It had two eyes, and both its head and tail were armed with two forks.*

It sounds most unpleasant.

*It lived eighteen hours in an empty bottle, and three or four hours after brandy had been put to it. The egg that produced this worm in all probability was sucked in along with the air she breathed, and carried after to the frontal sinus, where it met with a proper nidus, to give it both growth and increase.*

A 'nidus' is a place where an insect lays its eggs, or its nest.

*M. Littre, who related this history, advises in all such stubborn cases as will not submit to either external or internal means, to come to the trepan, which may be employed with all safety.*

In other words, he advises cutting a hole in the skull with a drill if you can't entice the insect out. This does not seem a terribly good idea.

*He, however, would recommend first to try such things as have been observed to be most effectual to disturb those troublesome guests, such as oil, the juices of some acrid plants, &c.*

Much more sensible. The second case is, in some ways, still more unusual, given the apparent diet of the creature discovered.

*M. Maloet reported that one of the King's household troops complained for three years of an acute pain in the left frontal sinus, which extended to the eye of the same side, so as to endanger his losing it. He had also a buzzing noise in his ear, to relieve which, he had some oil of sweet almonds put into it, and in two days after, he perceived in his left nostril an itching and stinging, as if something moved there, which he could not discharge, but by putting his finger into his nose, when behold he pulled out a worm, which ran swiftly on the palm of his hand, though covered with a viscous matter and snuff, of which this gentleman took plenty. This worm was put into a tobacco-box with snuff in it, where it lived five or six days. All the patient's complaints ceased after this worm came away. The only difference between this and the former is this. This worm was six lines only long, and had but one hundred feet. But there was this singular in both cases. The former was thought to be expelled by the use of tobacco-snuff, whereas this subsisted three years with a plentiful use of the same weed, and after its expulsion, lived five or six days on the same.*

A snuff-eating sinus centipede, you say? Now I've heard it all.

Posted on 21st March 2017 Author Thomas Morris Categories Prodigies and monsters

### 3 thoughts on "The snuff-eating nose centipede"

1.

**Stephanie O** says:

24th March 2017 at 4:04 pm

I thank God I live in an age of modern medicine, but how gross is it that we can still be affected by such crazy, random events? Off to Roto-Rooter my sinus cavity with BLEACH!

2.

**Lynzie Quinn RN** says:

25th March 2017 at 10:56 pm

People still use tobacco to kill many infection such as GI worms. Many become addicted to chewing tobacco as young as 2 or 3 because of this common treatment used by the poor. A tobacco addiction beats a slow, young death from malnutrition.

1.

**Stephanie O** says:

26th March 2017 at 12:26 pm

Valid points. I have no issue with using natural medicines to treat afflictions or ease suffering, but the idea that a worm could be incubating in an airborne particle that I inhale and have it hatch in my head STILL gives me the willies!

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Solo yachtswoman forced to abandon Antarctica bid

March Madness



AFP Apr 3, 2017, 7:36 PM



Australian sailor Lisa Blair on her yacht "Climate Action Now" is attempting to become the first woman to circumnavigate Antarctica solo (AFP Photo/CORRINA RIDGWAY)

An Australian attempting to become the first woman to circumnavigate Antarctica solo was forced to abandon the bid Tuesday after being demasted in ferocious seas and high winds, more than two months after setting sail.

Lisa Blair was 72 days into the non-stop and unassisted 14,000-nautical mile voyage around the icy continent on her yacht "Climate Action Now".

She was aiming to break the record set by Russian adventurer Fedor Konyukhov who braved storms, freezing temperatures, and the threat of icebergs to complete the journey in 102 days, 35 minutes and 50 seconds.

But the conditions have taken their toll, with her support crew saying the yacht's mast broke early Tuesday 895 kilometres (554 miles) south of Cape Town in seven metre (22 feet) swells and 40 knot winds.

"The mast is currently being dragged behind the boat. She is regrouping after making the boat safe and at first light will assess the situation," her spokeswoman Tracey Whittaker told AFP.

"With the damage she has, the record attempt is abandoned," she added, shortly after speaking with Blair, who was unhurt in the incident.

Once the full extent of the damage is known, her team will work on options for Blair to best reach land.

"Of course she is disappointed," Whittaker said. "At 72 days, she was on target to break the record."

So far Blair, who started her voyage at Albany in Western Australia, has only issued a pan-pan call signifying a problem, and not a mayday, which is used in life-threatening situations.

Search and rescue in Cape Town have been notified and will provide assistance if required, her support crew said.

In a blog post on Monday, Blair said it had been a testing 24 hours, including a wave rolling the boat.

"After I battled with the zipper of my sleeping bag I then glanced outside. It was a complete white-out with rain sheeting sideways and the winds howling through the rigging," she said.

"Behind me, I could see crystal clear blue skies and in front of me was this frothing boiling mass of angry wind and rain."

The Antarctica attempt, which has only been completed twice before, takes sailors past the three most notorious capes on the planet -- Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape Agulhas.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Someone left £1,000,000 in the back of a London black cab

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Friday 24 Feb 2017 10:02 am



Police in London have revealed that they found nearly £1million in a suitcase in the back of a black cab.

They revealed the huge haul as they released information on money that they stole in 2015/16.

Scotland Yard said: 'The cash was found when officers stopped a black cab in east London and found a large holdall in the passenger compartment which contained the cash.'

'The cash was subsequently forfeited under the Proceeds of Crime Act in early 2016.'

In total they seized more than £73million under the Proceeds of Crime Act which came into force in 2002.

It's the largest total since the act came into place.

The largest confiscation order came in 2015 which was to the value of £6,328,119.39. The criminality related to the supply of chip and pin machines to central London brothels.

### Amounts seized by year

2011/12 – £57.9million  
2012/13 – £62.4million  
2013/14 – £57.8million  
2014/15 – £66million  
2015/16 – £73.04million

The Met Police said: 'The main perpetrator created a number of sham companies purporting to offer events and function facilities to corporate clients.'

These companies were then used to obtain numerous chip and pin machines from various Merchant Services Providers by fraudulently misrepresenting their business intentions.

The machines were then placed into several brothels in order to facilitate the payment for vice services and Class A drugs from paying customers.

Funds forfeited and confiscated by the MPS are paid to the Home Office, although the MPS receives a percentage back from the Home Office through the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS.)

Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said: 'The MPS is here to reduce crime and keep people safe. It's satisfying to see criminals pay back for the damage they cause communities through the assets we've recovered.'

'The message is loud and clear, crime does not pay and criminals who think it does will have to deal with the full force of the MPS.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Someone used a cement pig to try to break into UPS store

wtvr.com

Posted 12:38 am, March 28, 2017, by Jon Burkett, Updated at 12:44AM, March 28, 2017

BON AIR, Va. -- Do pigs fly? Crime Insider sources said parts of a cement pig planter went airborne early Sunday morning when someone tried to break into the UPS store off Buford Road.

While the glass was broken, police said the decorative item did not quite make it all the way through the window.

In fact, it appears the pig did not suffer any damage.

The UPS store owner fixed the back door Monday afternoon.



Cement pig planter

Online Public File • Terms of Service  
• Privacy Policy  
• 3301 W Broad Street Richmond  
VA 23230  
• Copyright © 2017, WTVR  
• A Tribune Broadcasting Station •  
Powered by WordPress.com VIP

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## South Dakota man gets \$190 fine for snake without leash

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press April 7, 2017

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who was fined for allowing his pet snake to slither freely in a South Dakota park said an animal control officer suggested he use a leash to restrain the reptile.

Jerry Kimball said he initially thought the recommendation was a joke because it was April Fool's Day when he was fined \$190 and ticketed last week for "animals running at large," told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2oMstxK>).

"He was literally asking me to put a rope around my snake," Kimball said. "I was like, 'Dude, no.' I was dumbfounded."

Kimball was approached by the officer after a woman complained that his Fire Bee Ball Python was roaming freely at Falls Park in Sioux Falls.

Animal Control Supervisor Julie DeJong said a city ordinance requires all pets to be leashed or restrained in public. She said pet snakes can be held or kept in a container to comply.

"If it's in public and it's not on a leash, it's at large. The ordinance doesn't really distinguish between animals," she said.

DeJong added that snake lovers should be more sensitive to the aversion many people feel toward the animal. While non-venomous snakes are legal to own, not all park visitors will welcome a python in a park.

But Kimball said he considers it his mission to rid the public's fear of snakes.

"That's my purpose in life: To let people know that snakes aren't killers," he said. "What better way to give back than to help people understand these misunderstood creatures?"

Kimball said he plans to fight the ticket in court.

---

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Spicejet plane forced to land because of horrific smell from toilet

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Monday 6 Mar 2017 11:49 am  
The SpiceJet plane was ventilated during an unscheduled stop (Picture: Getty)

A plane has been forced to make an emergency landing after an 'extremely pungent' smell was detected in the cockpit.

The smell is believed to have emanated from the toilet at the front of the Spicejet plane from Bengaluru to Delhi.

It made an unscheduled landing at Hyderabad Airport because of the smell, delaying all 188 passengers.

A spokesman for the airline said: 'SpiceJet aircraft, operating flight SG 192 from Bengaluru to Delhi, had to be diverted to Hyderabad due very foul smell from forward lavatory coming into the cockpit.'

The cockpit and toilet were ventilated at Hyderabad and the plane landed at Delhi an hour behind schedule.

They did not give specific details as to what was causing the smell.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Star Wars fan killed his wife after 'she smashed his toy collection'

By Paul Byrne 00:04, 3 NOV 2011 Updated 19:55, 12 MAR 2012 News

mirror.co.uk

**A STAR Wars fan was yesterday jailed for life after murdering his wife in an alleged revenge attack for smashing up his cherished toy collection.**



*Pornpilai Srisroy (Pic: Cavendish)*

A STAR Wars fan was yesterday jailed for life after murdering his wife in an alleged revenge attack for smashing up his cherished toy collection.

Rickie La-Touche, 30, told a court that his Thai wife Pornpilai Srisroy, 28, had damaged his precious Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker memorabilia.

He later suffocated her during a row and then ran sobbing to his mother who lived nearby.

La-Touche later told police his wife had smashed up his Star Wars collection as part of a campaign to "make his life hell". He also claimed he "flipped" when she threatened to leave him to go back to Thailand.

La-Touche, also known as Rickie Nehls, was found guilty of murder and was ordered to serve a minimum of 12 years.



The court heard that he met his wife in a bar while on holiday in Bangkok in 2001. He became besotted and they married on his fourth visit to Thailand in 2003.

In April the couple had a violent row one morning and he later arrived at his mother's house in an agitated state.

When his mother asked him what was wrong, he replied he had "killed her".

La-Touche told Preston Crown Court his wife had damaged most of his collection of Star Wars memorabilia, which he had built up since he was a child and was worth thousands of pounds.

He had also told detectives he was worried she was about to leave him. La-Touche, from Leigh, Greater Manchester, said in a police interview: "My wife is from Thailand and she keeps threatening to leave. We argued and she said she was going to make my life hell.

"She's put me through it before. I couldn't let that happen again. I then just remember getting up from on top of her. I think I've choked her."

La-Touche denied murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter. A postmortem concluded she died of asphyxiation.

Senior investigating officer Andy Tattersall, from Greater Manchester Police, said after the trial: "Unfortunately, we may never know exactly what happened that morning, but I hope La-Touche's sentence is of some small comfort to Pornpilai's family and friends.

"He now has to live the rest of his life with the awful knowledge he is responsible for killing his wife."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Starburst to release all-pink packs, as God intended

avclub.com

# A.V. CLUB

## Starburst to release all-pink packs, as God intended

By William Hughes

Posted Mar 7, 2017



(Image: Wrigley)

Caving to public pressure after 57 years of resistance, Mars, Incorporated has announced that it'll soon be selling packs of Starbursts that only contain the pink ones. ("Stawberry," technically, although they pretty much just taste like "pink" to us.) No longer will fans of the waxy chews be forced to rely on fate or happenstance to ensure access to the frequently preferred

flavor. No longer will they scream in anguish at the sight of a pack overflowing with yellow or orange.

But as Starburst giveth, so doth Starburst taketh away: Mars has announced that the all-pink packs will be a limited time offer, available only through this April. So stock up, friends, and hold tight to a dream that was too good for this sinful, lemon-flavored Earth.

[via *Thrillist*]

© Copyright 2017 Onion Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Burglar falls 130ft to his death while trying to steal neighbour's Xbox metro.co.uk



Heywood slipped while trying to hoist himself back up to his flat (Picture: MEN)

A burglar fell 130ft to his death after trying to steal his neighbour's Xbox from their 13th-floor flat.

Jason Heywood had broken into the flat directly below his own, and was attempting to hoist himself up to his balcony afterwards.

However, the 40-year-old slipped and plummeted to his death on a grass verge

below the building.

An inquest heard how Heywood had 'tightly wound' a leather belt around the balcony of his flat in Rochdale, and lowered himself down.

He then stole his neighbour's Xbox, along with a number of games and other items from the flat. But when he tried to climb back up, he 'lost his balance or lost his footing, with tragic and catastrophic results'.

After his body was found, surrounded by Xbox games strewn about, he was pronounced dead on the scene.

Det Insp Martin Reddington, who attended the incident on August 13 last year, told the inquest at Heywood Coroners Court that the stolen Xbox was found on the deceased's balcony.

'We will never know the exact circumstances, but I believe he may have been disturbed and, rushing to get from one balcony to another, slipped and fell,' he said.



He fell from the 13th floor (Picture: MEN)

In a statement, burglary victim Elizabeth Smith said she returned to her flat at around 11.30pm and noticed the kitchen light was on, her belongings had been disturbed and some of her things were missing.

When she looked out of the balcony she saw the belt dangling down from the floor above, and noticed that the netting – which protects the balconies from birds – had been ripped.

She then looked down to the ground and, to her horror, saw Heywood's body on the grass verge.

The inquest heard that Heywood, a roofer who grew up in the area, had suffered problems with substance abuse since his early 20s.

On the night of his death the father-of-two, who lived with his girlfriend, had taken a 'cocktail' of crack cocaine, heroin, and prescription drugs.

His mum Judith Pickford described him as a loving dad, adding: 'We love him deeply and miss him every day.'

Coroner Simon Nelson recorded a conclusion of death by misadventure, saying: 'If his judgement had not been so affected [by the drugs] I believe he would still be with us today.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Stepmother gouges out eyes of four-year-old boy 'because he wet the bed'

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.uk Friday 17 Mar 2017 2:26 pm

### WARNING: GRAPHIC IMAGE



*Stepmother gouges out eyes of four-year-old boy 'because he wet the bed'*

**A stepmother allegedly gouged out the eyes of her four-year-old stepson because he wet the bed.**

The child, who has not been named, is believed to have wet his bed the night before he was allegedly attacked by his dad's wife.

The incident happened in the province of Masvingo, Central Zimbabwe.

The woman reportedly admitted to the crime and was laughing about gouging his eyes out when police arrived.

She reportedly told police 'he isn't my child' when officers questioned her motives.

Horrific pictures taken of the boy show him sitting on the ground in bloodstained clothes, with his eye sockets full of tissue.

It was not clear whether the boy's father witnessed the alleged attack or whether the stepmother was under arrest.

The case is believed to be ongoing.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Tourists stone a crocodile to death with rocks at Tunisian zoo

13:57 EST, 1 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

**Tourists stone a crocodile to death with rocks and a paving slab at Tunisian zoo**

- A crocodile was brutally stoned to death by a group of visitors to a Tunisian zoo
- The municipality said the act at the Belvedere Zoo in central Tunis was 'savage'
- The reptile died after being hit on the head by two large rocks, a zoo vet said
- Gory photos of the dead animal's bloodied corpse have been released online

By Simon Holmes For Mailonline

A crocodile has been brutally stoned to death by a group of visitors to a Tunisian zoo despite the park being patrolled by a number of guards.

The municipality of Tunis posted gory pictures on Facebook of the dead animal's head next to what appeared to be a bloodied paving slab and another large rock.

The Facebook post read: 'A group of visitors to the zoo threw stones at the head of a crocodile, causing internal haemorrhage that killed it.'



**Blood:** The crocodile died have receiving blows to the head by two large rocks



**Gore:** The reptile's injuries were so gruesome they had to be blurred out up close

The municipality said the act at the Belvedere Zoo in central Tunis was 'savage behaviour'.

The animal died after being hit on the head by two large rocks late Tuesday afternoon, Amor Ennaifer, a

vet at the zoo, told AFP.

'It's terrible. You cannot imagine what animals endure from some visitors,' he said.

'Citizens leave waste and plastic bags... They throw stones at lions and hippos.'

Ennaifer said the zoo has signs and guards but this was not enough, especially during school holidays.

'There are more than 150 species in the zoo. We can't put a guard in front of each cage,' he said. 'People need to be aware of the need to respect animals.'



Cruel: The Tunis municipality described the killing as a 'savage act'

The behaviour of the zoo's visitors often causes controversy.

Last year, images showing the zoo covered with litter caused an outcry on social media.

The management blamed zoo visitors for the 'catastrophic situation' but did not confirm if anyone has been charged for the killing.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Feds to New Jersey: Stop painting center lines blue

yahoo.com

**AP** TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Municipalities across New Jersey that have chosen to honor law enforcement by adding a streak of blue to the middle of their roads have been advised by federal officials to stop the practice.

A Dec. 8 letter from the Federal Highway Administration to Somerset County's Engineering Division confirmed that the blue center lines are in violation of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.

The MUTCD states that "the pavement surface must be visible in the space between the lines in the same way that it is visible outside the lines."

Office of Transportation Operations Director Mark Kehrli added in the letter that blue paint should only be used for designating handicap parking spaces.

It's unclear whether municipalities can be penalized for keeping the blue lines.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## The story behind why Irishmen toss cabbages at St. Patrick's Day parades

Posted: 2:29 p.m., March 9, 2017 | Updated: 3:46 p.m., March 9, 2017

wgno.com

**NEW ORLEANS-** It's a tradition for the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club to toss cabbages at their annual parade. Did you ever take the time to think why do they throw cabbages in the first place?



News with a Twist Reporter Kenny Lopez found out!

Chances are for years, you've gone to the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade and collected a handful of cabbages.

Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade to start earlier; bring your rain gear

"In 1845, when there was the potato famine in Ireland they ran out of

potatoes, so they started using cabbages because that was the next big staple food. In Ireland though they used bacon for their meals with the cabbage. When the Irish immigrants came to America, they couldn't afford the bacon, so they used corned beef, and that's how we got the corned beef and cabbage tradition," Dick Burke, president of the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club, said.

Today, they throw the cabbages to honor that Irish tradition of using cabbages for their meals.



And there's even a traditional tossing technique.

"We always ask our members to toss the cabbages not throw them overhand. Sometimes after a few drinks they can throw overhand, and that's when people can get hurt," he said.

Advertisement

And if you have the luck of the Irish, this parade provides.

"Grab a few cabbages, grab some Irish potatoes, some bell peppers, some onions, and you go home and make yourself some corned beef and cabbage. All you must do is bring a container to get all your goods back to your house," Burke said.

Advertisement

The Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade is on Saturday, March 11th starting at 12:30 p.m. They moved it up an hour because of rain in the forecast.

The parade starts at Jefferson Avenue and Tchoupitoulas and heads down Magazine Street to Jackson Avenue.

Henry's Bar and Ms. Mae's are the sponsors. This year's Grand Marshal is Bobby O'Brien.

This is the 70th year for the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade. For more information, click [HERE](#).

29.951066 -90.071532

Practice makes perfect: Marchers get ready for Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day parade

Online Public File • EEO Report • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy

- 1 Galleria Blvd., Suite 850 Metairie, LA 70001
- Copyright © 2017, WGNO
- A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Science

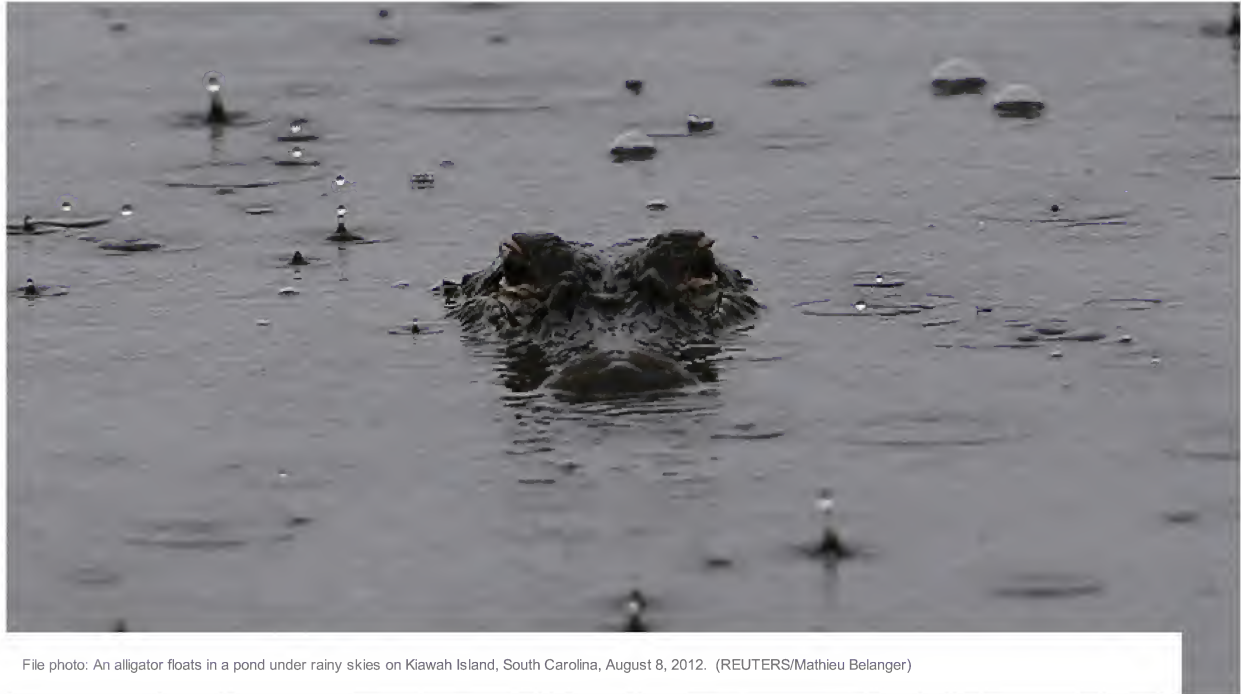
[Home](#) [Video](#) [Politics](#) [U.S.](#) [Opinion](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Tech](#) [Science](#) [Health](#) [Travel](#) [Lifestyle](#) [World](#) [On Air](#)[Science Home](#) [Archaeology](#) [Air & Space](#) [Planet Earth](#) [Wild Nature](#) [Natural Science](#) [Dinosaurs](#) [Slideshows](#)

## WILD NATURE

## Strange orange alligator turns heads in South Carolina

Published February 09, 2017

FoxNews.com



File photo: An alligator floats in a pond under rainy skies on Kiawah Island, South Carolina, August 8, 2012. (REUTERS/Mathieu Belanger)

An alligator in a small South Carolina town is grabbing attention because of one weird quality: it's orange.

To be more accurate, it's a rusty, clay, sweet-potato color, and no one is sure why. But one thing is for certain— it doesn't have an alligator's typical color.

The little gator, reportedly about 4.5 feet long, lives in a pond in Hanahan, South Carolina.

**The Post and Courier**

@postandcourier

[Follow](#)

Orange "Trumpagator" spotted in [#Hanahan](#) has residents scratching their heads. Is it albino? Clemson fan?

[bit.ly/2k51B5G](http://bit.ly/2k51B5G) [#chsnews](#)

5:15 PM - 8 Feb 2017



The Post and Courier reported that a post on Facebook about the strangely-colored animal has gotten plenty of attention, with one person commenting that the orange-ish animal was a "Trumpagator."

And a local resident told the paper, after photographing the reptile: "'I just thought, what the hell is that?'"

It's unclear why the gator has the strange, Doritos-like color, although one expert speculated its non-natural color could be due to an "environmental factor," like a pollutant or algae.

Ghostery blocked comments powered by Livefyre.



[Site Index](#)

---

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. ©2017 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. All market data delayed 20 minutes.  
[New Privacy](#) - [New Terms of Use](#) ([What's New](#)) - [FAQ](#)

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: [More info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Hide on this page](#)

## The Street Fighting Life of Abraham Lincoln | VICE Sports

2017-02-21T19:38:51+00:00

vice.com



*The Street Fighting Life of Abraham Lincoln*

February 21, 2017 Sarah Kurchak

The current incarnation of Republicans don't have the greatest track record when it comes to accurately representing Abraham Lincoln (or, one could argue, emulating his ideals). Earlier this month, in fact, the GOP celebrated the 16th President's birthday by misattributing a quote to him.

So when collegiate wrestler-turned-former Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld dropped a passing reference to Honest Abe's love of wrestling in a 2013 Washington Post op-ed about the future of the sport in the Olympic Games, the fact-checking website Politifact set out to determine the veracity of that claim. It didn't take them long to confirm Lincoln's fondness for the sport, as well as the ultimate testament to his prowess in it: a spot in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. They also found this '00s-era Mountain Dew commercial on the topic because America, fuck yeah.

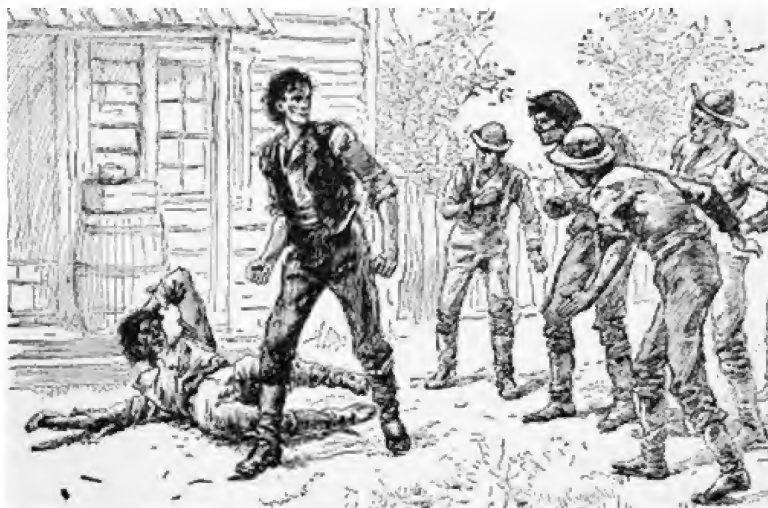
"It's not mythology," Lincoln expert and best-selling author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography*, Ronald C. White Jr., told WWE.com in 2012. (Side note: this interview is really worth reading both for the actual information it contains, and for the number of references to wrestlers like The Rock, Hulk Hogan, and Captain Lou Albano shamelessly shoehorned into the prose.) "Lincoln definitely wrestled."

While his gangly and awkward amusing genetic copy preferred basketball on *Clone High*, the original Abe had grappling in his blood. "Lincoln had wrestling in his background," White added. "His Uncle Mord reputedly had a real talent for it. Lincoln did quite a bit of wrestling during the years he lived in Indiana from ages 9 to 21."

He also, according to the NWHOF's page on their famous honoree, spent most of that time winning. "In the rough and ready style of the frontier, "catch as catch can" wrestling was more hand-to-hand combat than sport. Lincoln, an awesome physical specimen at 6-feet-4, was widely known for his wrestling skills and had only one recorded defeat in a dozen years."

According to Sports Illustrated, that defeat came during the Black Hawk Indian uprising of 1832, when Hank Thompson bested the future President with two straight falls in a regimental championship match. While SI writer David Fleming went on to proclaim him "a proud competitor but a humble sportsman," Lincoln was not averse to the occasional bit of trash talk when the situation necessitated it.

After one particular scrap where he defeated a man with a single toss, Abe turned to the angry mob that had gathered to watch the fight, and challenged the lot of them by loudly declaring "Any of you want to try it, come on and whet your horns!"



As SI reports, no one took him up on the offer.

Lincoln didn't just fight for glory and bragging rights, though. He also used his wrestling skills to defend others. When his stepbrother's river barge was hijacked by a group of thugs, for example, the then-19-year-old saved the day by single-handedly throwing them all overboard.

His most famous and well-documented match was born of similar motivation. When

the store in New Salem, Illinois where Lincoln worked as a clerk in the early 1830s was menaced by a local gang, the owner, Denton Offutt knew where to turn. Openly bragging about his employee's mental and physical prowess, he told the members of the Clary's Grove boys that Lincoln took take on any of them. Their leader, Jack Armstrong took the bait and challenged Honest Abe to a wrestling match.

There are a number of conflicting accounts as to what actually happened when Abraham Lincoln faced Jack Armstrong in a tree clearing near Offutt's store. Retired history teacher and Lincoln buff Roger J. Norton offers his take on the most popular version of the story in a post on his extensive Abraham Lincoln Research Site: "The entire town turned out for the fight. Offutt bet \$10 Lincoln would win. Other residents wagered money, drinks, even trinkets and knives. Lincoln was 6' 4" and weighed 185 pounds, but Jack Armstrong was an experienced, formidable opponent. Although he was smaller than Lincoln, he was as strong as an ox. The stage was set.

"For a time, the two scufflers circled each other warily. They did some grappling and twisting, but neither man could throw the other to the ground. Slowly, Armstrong began to get the worst of it. Finally, Lincoln grabbed the bully by the neck, held him at arm's length, and shook him like a little boy. This aroused the Clary's Grove boys, and it suddenly appeared Lincoln might be attacked by an entire crowd of people. He backed up against the wall of Offutt's store and offered to take them on one at a time."

The NWHOF offers this brief recap of the event: "From the start, Lincoln handed out a thrashing. When Armstrong began fouling, Lincoln picked up his opponent, dashed him to the ground and knocked him out."

WWE.com's Zach Linder writes: "Various accounts have Armstrong sensing defeat and fouling Lincoln by tripping him—the equivalent to a low blow by today's standards. Honest Abe, never one to break the rules, became incensed and used his long, powerful arms to grab his opponent by the neck and shake him vigorously like a rag doll. With The Clary's Grove Boys backing up Armstrong, they began to corner Lincoln. Some say that Lincoln offered to take on each member of the gang, but their leader called off the bout instead. The competitors agreed on a draw and Armstrong proclaimed Lincoln to be, 'the best fella that ever broke into this settlement.'"

Most historians seem to agree that it was Lincoln's character more than his impressive physical skill that really saved the day. As White explained to WWE.com, "It may have been under the rules that Lincoln would have won the match, but what really endeared Lincoln to this group of young men





was that Lincoln didn't want to win the match when he was obviously the stronger and better wrestler."

When Lincoln chose to settle things with a handshake, White says, "it spoke volumes about the kind of person Lincoln became."

And, much like a charity boxing match would, in its own way, help to contribute to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's climb to political power over 180 years later, the fight would lay at least some of the groundwork for Lincoln's political destiny.

"The episode was full of important consequences to Abraham Lincoln," Irving Stone and William Osborn Stoddard wrote in their biography, *Abraham Lincoln: the true story of a great life. Showing the inner growth, special training, and peculiar fitness of the man for his work*, "His courage and prowess had been thoroughly tested and had made a deep impression upon the minds of his rough neighbors. He was in no danger of further challengers from any of them, and Jack Armstrong avowed himself the fast friend of the man who had given him so good a shaking. The further results were only a question of time, for the wrestling match which was not won by either of the contestants gained for Abe Lincoln a strong and devoted, it somewhat turbulent constituency. Every member of the Clary's Grove gang had a vote, and with it a strong admiration for a man who could not only read and write, but could hold a bully at arm's length. The story of the 'match' went far and wide, and its hero was thenceforth a man of note and influence in that community."

- © 2014 VICE Sports LLC

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Mum fulfills son's dying wish to be turned into coral reef

metro.co.uk

Metro News Reporter for Metro.co.uk Friday 10 Mar 2017 5:48 pm



John loved scuba diving and dreamed of becoming an ocean paleontologist (Picture: PA Real Life)

**A grieving mum fulfilled her son's dying wish by having his body turned into an artificial coral reef.**

Just months before John Flowers died from a rare brain cancer at the age of 20, he told his mum he wanted his ashes to be placed in a concrete 'reef ball' in the sea.

His mum Phylliss, 66, from Sarasota, Florida, said he asked for his brain and spine to be used for for

research into his condition, but for the rest of his body to become part of the Eternal Reef – which is made almost entirely of balls containing people's ashes.

Costing around \$5,000 (£4,109), reef balls are made from a special concrete mixed with cremation ash, so they act like natural coral – providing a habitat for ocean fish.

John's reef ball also contained diving mementos – including dinosaur teeth, his first dive knife and his dog tags. It was the 700th ball to be released in the Gulf of Mexico.



John with his mum Phylliss, after his cancer diagnosis and treatment had begun (Picture: PA Real Life)

When John got a place studying marine science at the University of West Florida, he was on his way to realising his dream of studying fossils and prehistoric creatures as an ocean palaeontologist.

But after coming home from his first term at university, he started seeing red spots in front of his eyes.

'I thought they were just from working too hard on the computer,' said Phylliss. 'I took him to the eye doctor, thinking that we were going in for glasses.

'But we were sent to the hospital for an MRI, where they found inoperable brain cancer.'

When John was about ten, he won a competition in Florida for this painting of himself diving (Picture: PA Real Life)

John was diagnosed with a rare glioblastoma tumour on December 29, 2014. This is a form of cancer that spreads throughout the brain and nervous system, and cannot be removed by surgery.



He underwent chemo and radiotherapy, but in July 2015 doctors told him that he should start planning for his death.

'He had been to his grandparents' funerals and he said he just didn't want his own to be sad,' Phylliss said. 'That's why he wanted to be part of the Eternal Reef.'

The Eternal Reef, in the Gulf of Mexico (Picture: Eternal Reefs/YouTube)

John had loved diving from the age of six, helped by the fact that he grew up next to the beach in Florida.

'When he was 14, he went shark diving, and we went all over the place to allow him to scuba dive,' she said.

'At first I was nervous, but I knew I had to let him do what made him happy.'

John passed away peacefully at home on July 26, 2016, with his

family and friends by his side.

After cremation, his ashes were divided into three boxes.



Phyllis and 13 other families released the balls into the sea together (Picture: Eternal Reefs/YouTube)

One was placed at the site of his first ever dive, off the coast of Destin, and the second was placed at Oriskany – a sunken aircraft carrier off Pensacola.

The third box of ashes was then made into a reef ball.

In October 2015, Phyllis and around 13 other families went out on a boat to

release the balls.

'The crew helped to hold a lovely service on the boat,' said Phyllis.

John's reef ball (Picture: PA Real Life)





'They go out and they say the person's name and put the reef down. They make it like a funeral.'

'You look out at the water and you realise that your dead loved ones are giving a gift back, which makes you feel happy.'

'I knew that my son would be happy with what was going on. It made perfect sense.'



Reef balls cost around \$5000 (Picture: PA Real

Life/EternalReefs.com)

Phyliss said she was so touched by the experience that she has changed her will, so her ashes will be buried in the Eternal Reef too.

'One of the last things that John said to me was, "Mum, when you go to the beach and see the dolphins, one of them will be me",' she added.

'It's very rare now that I go to the beach and don't see a dolphin.'

'It's beautiful, and that brings me some comfort.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Mother gave birth in a bath and put the baby in a suitcase

09:35 EST, 3 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

**Mother, 22, gave birth to a baby girl in a bathtub and put her in a suitcase with the mummified remains of a previous child**

- **Laura Schwenn, 22, from Hanover, Lower Saxony, has been jailed**
- **She cut the umbilical cord with a pair of nail scissors and left for college**
- **Boyfriend Rico Pulzer, 19, found the baby and called the police**

By Fionn Hargreaves For Mailonline

A mother who left her newborn baby daughter in a suitcase beside the body of a previous child has been jailed.

Laura Schwenn, 22, gave birth to the baby in her bath in Hanover, Saxony.

She cut the umbilical cord with a pair of nail scissors and sealed the child in a suitcase.



Laura Schwenn, 22, has been jailed after she sealed her newborn baby daughter in a suitcase with the mummified remains of another baby she gave birth to in 2015

Pictured, an X-Ray of the suitcase, showing the newborn (right) and the body of the baby who was born in 2015 (left)

It was the same suitcase that held the mummified remains of another child she gave birth to in 2015.



The baby was

found by boyfriend Rico Pulzer, 19, who called an ambulance and the police. Pictured, the suitcase the babies were found in

The next day, she left the house for college as normal.



The baby was found by boyfriend Rico Pulzer, who called an ambulance and the police.

He told the court he didn't know Schwenn was pregnant.

The girl is living with a foster family, having recovered from her ordeal.

Investigators were unable to establish whether the body of the baby from 2015 was killed by Schwenn or whether the infant had been stillborn.

Schwenn claimed she put the baby in the suitcase to give it warmth and air while she was out.

Medical experts told the court the baby's life was in danger inside the case.

But Schwenn said: 'I was sure that my baby's life was not threatened.'



Investigators were unable to establish whether the body of the baby from 2015 was killed by Schwenn or whether the infant had been stillborn

The girl is alive and recovered, and is living with a foster family. Schwenn said: 'I was sure that my baby's life was not threatened'



/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Suiting up the Swiss Guard: Austrian blacksmiths practice vanishing craft for Vatican guards

yahoo.com



Blacksmith Johann Schmidberger works on a suit of armor for the Vatican's Swiss Guards at his workshop in Molln, Austria, March 29, 2017. (Photo: Leonhard Foeger/Reuters)

Yahoo News Photo Staff April 4, 2017

Austrian blacksmiths who produce ceremonial suits of armor for the Vatican's Swiss Guards are close to the end of their current deal to do so, and say supplying the suits will not be an issue for many years to come.

One of the drawbacks of the Swiss Guards' medieval uniforms is that the craftsmanship needed to make them is disappearing.

Faced with an aged stock in need of replacement, the Guards turned to brothers Johann and Georg Schmidberger—the fifth generation to run the family blacksmith's business in the Austrian town of Molln—to provide them with 80 suits of armor covering the torso and arms.

The brothers have produced 10 of the suits a year since 2009, meaning the deal will be completed this year, and new replacements will not be needed for quite some time.

"I think it won't be an issue for another couple of hundred years," Johann said.

The brothers' workshop, where all kinds of hammers are piled high near a furnace and anvil, will continue to supply swords, locks, gates and other items to customers including theaters and private collectors.

And, for the coming years at least, he and his brother will produce the Guards' distinctive crested helmets, he said. (Reuters)



/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## SUMMERWIND MANSION

by: *sjhstrangetales*

wordpress.com

<https://sjhstrangetales.wordpress.com/2017/02/07/summerwind-mansion/>

Posted on: February 7, 2017

Summerwind Mansion has the unenviable title of being Wisconsin's Most Notorious Haunted House. For over a 100 years now strange, disturbing stories have circulated about this eerie, derelict property. And yet there may still be a happy ending to this often sad tale, as it seems the current owners are keen to take care of it and give it some much-needed love.

Situated on the shores of West Bay Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin, Summerwind was, in the early 20th century, originally a fishing-lodge. Then in 1916 Robert Patterson Lamont, President of American Steel Foundries, acquired the property with the intention of turning into a summer vacation refuge for himself and his family. The Lamont family would stay at the house until the 1930s. Robert would eventually become US Secretary of Commerce during Herbert Hoover's administration in 1929. The house became simply known in the area as the Lamont Mansion.

Robert Lamont employed Chicago architects to completely remodel the house, and renovations took two years to complete. One of the most famous ghost stories about the house comes from this era. Apparently the Lamont's maids had told them for years that the house was haunted, only for it to fall on deaf ears. The story goes that Robert and Mrs Lamont were having supper in the kitchen one evening in the mid-1930s, when the door to the basement was flung open, and a man materialised out of thin air. Robert fired a pistol at the strange intruder, who (presumably) evaporated, and the bullet hole could still be seen in the basement door for many years afterwards. The Lamonts abandoned the property soon after this.

The Keefer family owned the property from the 1940s until the 1960s. Sometimes it is put out that nothing untoward was reported about the house during this period, and yet some visitors have claimed that the Keepers never lived in it on a permanent basis. In the 1960s Mrs Keefer tried repeatedly to sell the house, but financial difficulties with the new owners meant that the house always reverted back to her. It is said that visitors to the mansion at this time would be handed the keys by Mrs Keefer, who would leave them to look round it on their own. All of which helped fuel its odd reputation I'm sure.

It is in the 1970s that the stories about the house became ramped up to another level entirely. In the early 70s Arnold and Ginger Hinshaw moved into the property, along with their 6 children. They were to only spend 6 months at Summerwind, and yet it would be an eventful time to say the least. During that time they reported seeing vague shapes and shadowy figures in the hallways, and heard mumbled voices in empty rooms.

Windows and doors opened and closed by themselves. A ghostly woman was seen floating past the French windows in the dining-room. The boiler and hot water heater constantly broke down, and yet by the time repairmen came to fix them they had somehow mysteriously righted themselves. On one especially dramatic occasion, Arnold was going off to work one morning. When he stepped outside, his car burst into flames.

Whilst painting a closet Arnold uncovered a small crawl space. He sent his youngest daughter, Mary, in to investigate it. She found the remains of human skull and a handful of black hair. This grim finding was never reported to the police, and the skull disappeared completely at a later date.

Whatever was really going on at the house at this time had a marked effect on the family. Arnold suffered a nervous breakdown, and subsequently lost his job. He took to acting strangely, such as staying up late playing the organ, in the belief that it would drive the demons away. His wife Ginger – who believed the house was responsible for Arnold's breakdown – herself suffered from severe depression at this time, and tried to take her own life.

After they left the property, curiously, Ginger's father, Raymond von Bober, acquired it, with the intention of turning it into a restaurant. This was to prove unsuccessful, reportedly down to the fact that he could never get workmen to stay on site long enough to do the necessary renovations. According to neighbours, Bober never

actually stayed the night in the property, but lived in a trailer on site. Nevertheless Bober made some pretty bizarre claims about the house, including that the rooms could change shape due to supernatural powers.

Using the pen-name, Wolfgang von Bober, he wrote a book about the property, called *The Carver Effect: A Paranormal Experience*, in which he claimed the house was haunted by an 18th-century Great Lakes explorer and militia-man called Jonathan Carver, who died in 1780. The book is now extremely rare and hard-to-find. Von Bober abandoned the house, and – inevitably – it became a haunt for local teenagers to hang out and be ... well teenagers I suppose.

In 1986 Harold Tracy bought the house as an anniversary gift for his wife, Babs. They never actually stayed in the house, although they did once camp in the grounds. Babs said that she saw the mansion breathing, getting larger as if it was inhaling. The Tracys never got to live in the house, because Fate took a hand.

The house came to a suitably dramatic end on 19 June 1988, when it was struck by lightning. The fire devastated the empty property, and all that remained were the concrete foundations and the fireplaces. The house continued to be a magnet for thrill-seeking youngsters, but in 2014 it was reported that the Summerwind Restoration Society were looking for funds to restore it and turn it into a bed-and-breakfast establishment.

The last report I could find was from a news site in August 2015, which reiterated the plans to turn it into a B&B, and that Paranormal Research Teams occasionally camp out at the site, and find it “really just nice and peaceful”. One ghost-hunter said “I absolutely love it up here”. Perhaps whatever troublesome spirits once frequented the site have now departed, and Summerwind now enjoys the serenity, and the refuge from the rat-race feeling for which it was originally intended by Mr Lamont all those years ago.

## Copyright

© Sarah Hapgood and *sjhstrangetales.wordpress.com*, 2011-2016. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from this blog's author and owner is strictly prohibited. Excerpts and links may be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to Sarah Hapgood and *sjhstrangetales.wordpress.com* with appropriate and specific direction to the original content.

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## NZ cop's epic take-down of biker caught on camera

18/02/2017

news.com.au



*The take-down in all its glory. A NZ cop takes down a biker.*

**IT'S NOT everyday you catch a real life take down, like out of the movies.**

Dan Wood happened to be in the right place at the right time when he captured a New Zealand cop launch himself out of a cop car to tackle a biker still on his bike.

The video looks like a scene from a movie but it is actually just a normal day on the streets of Kingsland in New Zealand.

The cop in the video has received nothing but praise for his actions from those watching the video which has hit more than 650,000 views.

Many have dubbed him 'SuperCop' while others want to buy him a beer.

You can watch the epic take-down here:

▶ 0:00

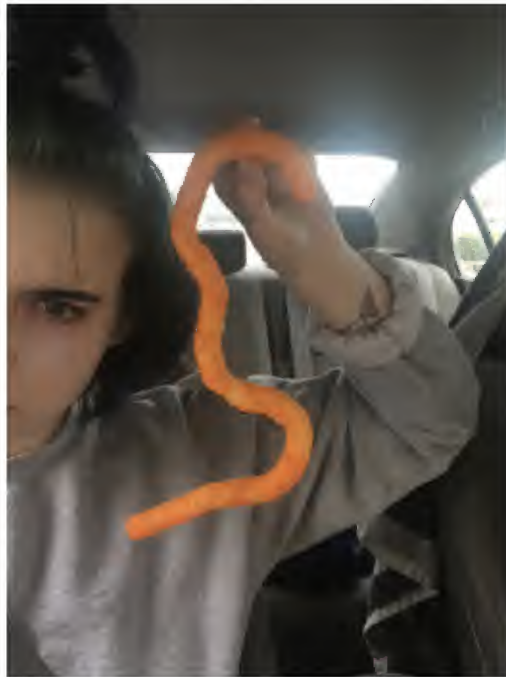
*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

**WEIRD NEWS** 04/03/2017 04:42 pm ET

# Super-Long Cheeto Worms Its Way Into Our Dreams (Or Nightmares)

As the saying goes, Cheetos never win.

By David Moyer



RUE LAWRENCE

Jessica Rupie found this very long Cheeto in a bag she purchased in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

A woman is getting a taste of internet fame after posting a photo on Twitter of what looks like the longest Cheeto ever found in captivity.

Yes, we know Cheetos aren't actual animals, but this one is so big, it seems like a snake of some sort.

Jessica Rupie found the supersized snack on Friday in a bag she purchased in her home town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, according to roommate Rue Lawrence.

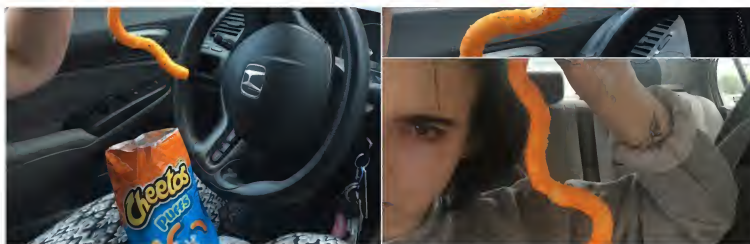
"[Jessica] got the bag of Cheetos at Walgreens, and we opened the bag and couldn't stop laughing," Lawrence told HuffPost.

Lawrence photographed the extra-long Cheeto and posted it for posterity on Twitter.



H

## Super-Long Cheeto Worms Its Way Into Our Dreams (Or Nightmares)



rue

@weedbees

Follow

MY ROOMMATE JUST PULLED THIS LONG ASS CHEETO OUT OF THIS TINY BAG. IM CRYING

4:19 PM - 31 Mar 2017

22,775

48,750

Lawrence said the very long Cheeto took up a lot of space in the bag.

“There were a few other little stragglers. But it rested comfortably between the top and bottom corner of the bag,” she said. “We didn’t notice until we got to the car. It was a medium-sized Cheetos bag and it fit perfectly.

“I think the picture I took makes the bag look a little smaller than it was but it definitely fit.”

The colossal Cheeto is actually made up of a few that managed to stick together end on end (on end).

“You can see the small dents where the Cheetos begin and end,” Lawrence said.

Frito-Lay did not immediately return a request for comment.



RUE LAWRENCE



# H Super-Long Cheeto Worms Its Way Into Our Dreams (Or Nightmares)



I didn't even get to taste the magic Cheetos, Lawrence lamented.

Lawrence's mood turned even more anguished when she was informed that [a Cheeto shaped like Harambe](#), the deceased gorilla from the Cincinnati Zoo, was recently put up for sale on eBay for the exorbitant price of \$100,000.

[It supposedly sold for \\$99,000](#), according to the eBay page.

"Nooooo!" she said.

*David Moya covers weird news and viral stories. Tips? Feedback? Send an [email](#) or follow him on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).*

**ALSO ON HUFFPOST**



**Cheetos Mix-Ups**

David Moya

Reporter, The Huffington Post

[Suggest a correction](#)

## MORE:

Arts And Entertainment

Food

Cheetos

[Advertise](#) [RSS](#) [Careers](#) [FAQ](#)

[User Agreement](#) [Privacy](#) [Comment Policy](#) [About Us](#) [About Our Ads](#) [Contact Us](#) [Archive](#)

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click:* [More info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Hide on this page](#)



# EsoterX ~ If Monsters Don't Exist, Why Are They Out To Get Me?

## Quantum Entangled Escargot: Sympathy for the Snail Telegraph

16 Thursday Mar 2017

POSTED BY ESOTERX IN ANTHROPOLOGY, FOLKLORE, HISTORY, MYTHOLOGY, OCCULT, TECHNOLOGY

≈ 1 COMMENT

*Tags*

anomalies, communication, physics, telegraphy

*"We get wise by asking questions, and even if these are not answered, we get wise, for a well-packed question carries its answer on its back as a snail carries its shell" – James Stephens*



Can you hear me now?

French Occultist Jacques Toussaint Benoit had an unhealthy obsession with snails, not that I'm entirely sure what a "healthy" obsession with snails would look like. Given he was already dabbling in the occult, so a mild fascination with gastropod reproduction was probably the least of his problems, what with all the other esoterica bouncing around in his head. One piece of fairly standard occult wisdom



that stood out was the notion of “sympathy” as in sympathetic magic, which when coupled with his intensive, if somewhat disturbing observations regarding the mating habits of snails, amounted to a rather wacky, but philosophically consistent hypothesis. On top of this, it seems Benoit was a French patriot. This is usually a recipe for disaster, or at least a very quirky cult. For Benoit it meant a potential breakthrough in improved communications, an essential activity in that favorite human pastime, war. Or maybe he was just concerned with where his next meal was coming from. At any rate, Benoit would find himself eternally associated with a strange amalgamation of occultism and technology, forever after referred to as “the snail telegraph”, or more technically “the pasilalinic-sympathetic compass”, ultimately a failure (and some say a deliberate hoax), but nonetheless prefiguring what we now refer to as quantum communication.

Hold on their cowpoke, you’re probably saying, what do 19<sup>th</sup> century French occultism, snails, and quantum entanglement have in common? I’m glad you asked. Well, let’s start from where we are today with communications. The quick and dirty explanation of quantum entanglement should probably be left to a physicist. The one I have locked in the closet is not cooperative. My interpretation will have to do. Quantum entanglement is a physical phenomenon that occurs when pairs or groups of particles are generated or interact in ways such that the quantum state of each particle cannot be described independently of the others, even when the particles are separated by a large distance—instead, a quantum state must be described for the system as a whole. The long and the short of it is that the universe seems to have no problem with two particles that change in relation to each other regardless of separation in time and space. In an “entangled pair”, it appears that one particle “knows” what measurement has been performed on the other, and with what outcome, even though there is no known means for such information to be communicated between the particles, which at the time of measurement may be separated by arbitrarily large distances. The essential weirdness of this physical fact is called the EPR Paradox, and big-brained boys like Albert Einstein, Boris Podolsky, and Nathan Rosen for which said paradox is named, perplexed by this apparent violation of the current description of physical reality gave it the appropriately creepy moniker of “spooky action at a distance”. Coincidentally, this is the same thing I call it when my wife knows I’m at my local watering hole enjoying a tasty scotch, even when she’s in a different city. Then again, that’s not witchcraft. Just common sense.

Now in 1850, nobody had ever heard of quantum entanglement, nor likely would have cared if they did. I mean, the Taiping Rebellion was on, everybody was reading the newly published *Scarlet Letter*, and the U.S. and Great Britain were busy negotiating the Clayton–Bulwer Treaty, allowing both countries to share Nicaragua and not claim complete control over the proposed Nicaragua Canal. Panama was unimpressed. The 1840’s kind of sucked in Europe. There were a series of crop failures and food shortages. Food riots were a common pastime, and public discontent led to revolutions in France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Hungary. Liberalism and nationalism were vying for the hearts and minds of the populace. A major recession set in, increased industrialization was leading to massive unemployment in many countries, and the general disillusionment with political and socio-economic conditions was leading to a spasm of conservatism and oppression. Britain and France were dominating European politics, but Russia and Prussia were making a lot of noise. Peace on Earth wasn’t looking like a priority.

War must have seemed inevitable. And every good general knows that war is all about good communication. You can’t conquer the world if you don’t have good information on what’s going on along the margins of your territory. Alexander, Hannibal, and Caesar each developed an elaborate system of relays by which messages were carried from one messenger post to another by mounted messengers traveling at top speed. Genghis Khan used homing pigeons. By the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, those

crazy Europeans armies were using a visual telegraph system devised by Claude Chappe, employing semaphore towers or poles with movable arms (basically smoke signals on crack). Flags, lights, and all manner of signaling were experimented with to get messages from the front to the big brains behind the lines, and by 1840 folks were playing around with electrical signaling (actually suggested by clever Scotsmen as early as 1753). The problem was that good communication tended to depend on a lot of factors out of your control. Good weather, clear skies, the guys at the semaphore tower being sober, or the integrity of your electrical lines. A good wire clipper could really screw you over. It was at this time that an ingenious, yet dubious solution was suggested in France.

**It was just about this time, 1850, that an ingenious Frenchman propounded the idea of dispensing with communicating wires altogether, and of transmitting messages to any distance by the utilization of animal magnetism. This was one Jacques Toussaint Benoit, who, in conjunction with a mythical French-American, named Biat-Chretien, submitted to the wonder lovers of Paris a scheme for telegraphing by means of—snails. As described in the French newspapers of 1850, this “discovery” was a reputed evolution of galvanism, terrestrial and animal magnetism, and of natural sympathy. The base of communication was said to be a sort of special sympathetic fluid—strongly suggestive of Sir Kenelm Digby’s sympathetic powder—which was composed of the blending of the galvanic, magnetic, and sympathetic currents by a certain process (Dickens, 1890, p179).**

In the 1780’s and 1790’s scientist Luigi Galvani, the father of electrophysiology, after noting he could make the muscles in a dead frog’s legs twitch with the application of electricity, was busy researching what he called “animal electricity”. It seemed pretty cool, and led to speculations on whether there was some sort of invisible natural force exerted by animals (an “animal magnetism”, or because of its association with Franz Friedrich Anton Mesmer, “Mesmerism”) that could have physical effects. Earlier in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, English natural philosopher, diplomat, courtier, and privateer Sir Kenelm Digby had played around with what he called “The Powder of Sympathy” (by most accounts green vitriol or ferrous sulphate), based on the old idea that a mysterious concoction applied to a weapon which had caused a wound would have curative properties over that wound. This is of course, sympathetic magic, pure and simple, relying on basic ideas of correspondence and contagion. And while it probably didn’t help much, his treatise on the subject went through at least 29 editions. But it started people thinking. In 1678, an anonymous pamphlet called “Curious Enquiries” (which may or may not have actually been meant as satire) was published suggesting the application of the powder of sympathy in an attempt to solve the longitude problem. It’s pretty easy to figure out your latitude when out at sea, but figuring out your longitude is a lot harder and requires keen observations and a good seaworthy clock, which of course had not yet been invented. Navigation errors tend to result in shipwrecks and vanishing islands.

How do you solve the longitude problem with the powder of sympathy? Well, you send a wounded dog along on board your sailing ship. Some reliable individual back on shore would dip a piece of a bandage used on the unfortunate hound into a solution of the powder of sympathy at noon each day. Presumably the dog would then yelp. When the captain heard the dog yelp, he could reasonably conclude that the sun was on the meridian back home, from which he could then calculate his longitude with reasonable accuracy. It’s not clear that anybody ever actually tried this. This may be due to the fact that whosoever was such an intrepid experimenter probably wound up wrecked on a reef or drowned cursing the dog for his imprecise yelping. This is all in service of saying that learned men of the time were thinking about the concept of natural sympathy and its application to a variety of problems. Sir Digby spent a lot of time exiled to France for his royalist leanings, where he addressed gatherings of contemporary intellectuals regarding his theories about the powder of sympathy. Whatever his failings, Digby is also credited with inventing the modern wine bottle. Coincidence?

This brings us to Jacques Touissant Benoit, who was interested in developing a form of communication that could not be intercepted or otherwise compromised by one's enemies. The electrical telegraph was working pretty well on dry land, and had largely replaced the optical telegraph systems preceding it. They'd even laid some undersea cables connecting France and England, but they kept breaking. Communicating across the ocean or sea still presented a huge problem. Benoit had the notion that a particular species of snail formed a permanent telepathic bond when they mated. Details are a little sparse on how exactly he came to this conclusion, but it probably involved a lot of forced mating and poking of snails to see how they reacted. Folks were very excited, and the newspapers of the day began to breathlessly report this latest novelty.

Jules Allix after a long preamble in *La Presse*, in an article signed by himself, announced that a French inventor, M. Jacques Toussaint Benott (de l'Herault), and a fellow worker of Gallic origin, living in America, M. Biat-Chretien, had hit on "a new system of universal intercommunication of thought, which operates instantaneously." After a long introduction in true French rhodomontade, tracing the progress of humanity from the publication of the Gospel to the 19th century, M. Allix continued, "The discovery of M. Benoit and Biat depends on galvanism, terrestrial and animal magnetism, also on natural sympathy, that is to say, the base of communication is a sort of special sympathetic fluid which is composed of the union or blending of the galvanic, magnetic and sympathetic currents, by a process to be described shortly. And as the various fluids vary according to the organic or inorganic bodies whence they are derived, it is necessary further to state that the forces or fluids here married are: (a) The terrestrial-galvanic current, (b) the animal-sympathetic current, in this case derived from snails, (c) the adamic or human current, or animal-magnetic current in man. Consequently, to describe concisely the basis of the new system of intercommunication, we shall have to call the force, 'The galvano-terrestrial-magnetic-animal and Adamic force!'" Is not this something like a piece of Jules Verne's delicious scientific hocus-pocus? Will the reader believe that it was written in good faith? It was, there can be no question, written in perfect good faith. The character of *La Presse*, of the journalist, M. Jules Allix, would not allow of a hoax willfully perpetrated on the public. We are quoting from the number for October 27th, 1850, of the paper. "According to the experiments made by M. Benoit and Biat, it seems that snails which have once been put in contact are always in sympathetic communication. When separated, there disengages itself from them a species of fluid of which the earth is the conductor, which develops and unrolls, so to speak, like the almost invisible thread of the spider, or that of the silk worm, which can be uncoiled and prolonged almost indefinitely in space without its breaking, but with this vital difference that the thread of the escargotic fluid is invisible as completely and the pulsation along it is as rapid as the electric fluid (Baring-Gould, 1890, p189-190)

All that remained was to construct an apparatus to capitalize on this snail telepathy, but Benoit was lacking in capital, and the mysterious M. Biat-Chretien was a shadowy figure who nobody had ever actually seen and may not have existed at all. Benoit convinced a Paris gymnasium manager named Monsieur Triat to provide room, board, and a lab space in which to construct a working prototype of his pasilalinic-sympathetic compass and harness the power of snail magnetism. Benoit experimented for a year without showing any results, and Triat started to get suspicious. At long last, Benoit offered a demonstration to Triat and the reporter Jules Allix. Allix described the mechanism that emerged.

This apparatus consists of a square box, in which is a Voltaic pile, of which the metallic plates, instead of being superposed, as in the pile of Volta, are disposed in order, attached in holes formed in a wheel or circular disc, that revolves about a steel axis. To these metallic plates used by Volta, M. Benoit and Biat have substituted others in the shape of cups or circular basins, composed of zinc lined with cloth steeped in a solution of sulphate of copper maintained in place by a blade of copper



riveted to the cup. At the bottom of each of these bowls, is fixed, by aid of a composition that shall be given presently, a living snail, whose sympathetic influence may unite and be woven with the galvanic current, when the wheel of the pile is set in motion and with it the snails that are adhering to it. Each galvanic basin rests on a delicate spring, so that it may respond to every escargotic commotion. Now, it is obvious that such an apparatus requires a corresponding apparatus, disposed as has been described, and containing in it snails in sympathy with those in the other apparatus, so that the escargotic vibration may pass from one precise point in one of the piles to a precise point in the other and complementary pile. When these dispositions have been grasped the rest follows as a matter of course. M. Benoit and Biat have fixed letters to the wheels, corresponding the one with the other, and at each sympathetic touch on one, the other is touched; consequently it is easy by this means, naturally and instantaneously, to communicate ideas at vast distances, by the indication of the letters touched by the snails. The apparatus described is in shape like a mariner's compass, and to distinguish it from that, it is termed the pasilalinic-sympathetic compass (Baring-Gould, 1890, p192).

The demonstration was a little questionable. Jules Allix and Triat poked snails on one side to spell "*gymnase*", and the snails on the other end spelled "*gymoate*", "*lumiere divine*" came through as "*lumhere divine*". Snails are not known for their spelling abilities. A test was then conducted with the elusive Mr. Biat in America (who supposedly had yet another test apparatus in sympathy with Benoit's snails). Benoit sent "Biat?" shortly receiving the reply *C'est Bien*. Allix were astounded, but Triat was less impressed, since he noticed Benoit spent the whole time running back and forth checking on the snails (ample time to poke a snail here and there). Triat told Benoit that he would happily continue his participation if Benoit could set up an experiment that transmitted a single word between separated snails without Benoit himself moving between them. Benoit happily agreed. And the day before the proposed test was set to take place, disappeared. There were occasional rumors that he was later spotted in Paris, wandering about in a starving and deranged state and that he died in 1852, his Snail Telegraph unrealized.

Was Benoit a con man or a madman? Was he fabricating his American partner Biat-Chretien or hallucinating him? Was it a deliberate hoax or an unproven hypothesis taken to its logical conclusion? Obviously, we are not awash in snail telegraphy, and the whole episode has long been relegated by historians to hilarious attempt to use what amounts to sympathetic magic to achieve technological results. But maybe Benoit was just ahead of his time and a little too specifically into snails. After all, aren't today's quantum physicists now discussing how to use the quantum entanglement of particles to convey information instantaneously? We can look back and laugh at the ludicrous notion of a snail telegraph, but every once in a while science catches up and recapitulates magic. As author Gail Tsukiyama said, "Even a snail will eventually reach its destination".

## References

- Baring-Gould, S. 1834-1924. *Historic Oddities and Strange Events*. 2d ed. London: Methuen, 1890. "Animal Magnetism and the Snail Telegraph". Buchanan, Joseph R. (Joseph Rodes), 1814-1899, and Harry Houdini Collection (Library of Congress). Buchanan's Journal of Man v3. Cincinnati, Ohio: J.R. Buchanan, 1851.
- Carpenter, William Benjamin, 1813-1885. *Mesmerism, Spiritualism: Historically & Scientifically Considered, Being Two Lectures Delivered At the London Institution, With Preface And Appendix*. New York: D. Appleton and company, 1877.
- Dickens, Charles ed., 1837-1896. "Early Telegraphy". *All the Year Round* 3:3. London: Charles Dickens , 1890.

Gregory, William, 1803-1858. Letters to a Candid Inquirer, On Animal Magnetism. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea, 1851.

The Year-book of Facts In Science And Art. London, 1852.

## thought on “Quantum Entangled Escargot: Sympathy for the Snail Telegraph”

*said:* **busterggi**

March 16, 2017 at 11:57 am

Animal magnetism is a fake. Not one hamster has ever stuck to my refrigerator no matter how I tried to get it to.

**REPLY**

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)

## Police use stun gun on man accused of vandalizing city garden with hammer

wsoc.tv.com



by: Joy Johnston, Cox Media Group  
National Content Desk Updated: Feb 22,  
2017 - 2:20 PM

rubenshito/freeimages  
<http://www.wsoctv.com/news/trending-now/police-use-stun-gun-on-man-accused-of-vandalizing-city-garden-with-hammer/496491599>



**DES MOINES, Iowa** - Witnesses were shocked to find a man using a hammer to destroy sculptures at a city garden in Iowa.

The incident was reported Tuesday at the Robert D. Ray Asian Garden, according to KCCI. Bystanders called police and tried to convince the man to stop, but to no avail. A couple of the bystanders recorded video of the man swinging the hammer and

knocking off pieces of decorative art atop the railing of a walkway.

When police arrived, the man still refused to put down the hammer, so police used a stun gun on him. He cried out and fell to the ground.

Police arrested him without further incident.

© 2017 Cox Media Group

© 2017 Cox Media Group.



## Watch A Teen Break 111 Blocks With His Head

huffingtonpost.com

03/28/2017 04:05 pm ET | **Updated** 1 day ago

### He isn't just another hard-headed teenager.

By Ron Dicker

We'd hate to call this kid a numbskull.

Kerim Ahmetpahic, a 16-year-old Bosnian blackbelt in taekwondo, reportedly smashed 111 concrete blocks with his noggin.

Sports Illustrated noted that it took the kid a mere 35 seconds.

Oliver Grimsehl was featured in Guinness World Records for cracking 65 blocks last May.

A Guinness spokeswoman told The Huffington Post on Tuesday that — contrary to previous reports — no Guinness officials were on hand recently in Bosnia to witness Ahmetpahic tumble forward onto several columns of the building blocks, smashing them with his skull.

Congrats anyway, kid. Hope there was plenty of aspirin handy.

The truth is stranger than fiction. Step into the world of weird news. [Learn more](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Teens wearing leggings barred from United flight

yahoo.com

**AP** DENVER (AP) — Two teenage girls were barred by a gate agent from boarding a United Airlines flight from Denver to Minneapolis on Sunday because they were wearing leggings, according to a spokesman for the airline.

The girls, whose ages were not specified, were not allowed onto the morning flight because they were traveling under an employee travel pass that includes a dress code, United spokesman Jonathan Guerin said.

The dress code bars pass travelers from wearing spandex or Lycra pants such as leggings. The teenagers agreed to change their clothing and take a later flight, Guerin said, but the airline's actions sparked a quick backlash on Twitter.

Activist Shannon Watts of Denver tweeted that she witnessed Sunday's events and questioned United's decision to police women's clothing.

Watts said the girl's father was allowed to board while wearing shorts and called the airline's policy sexist.

Regularly ticketed passengers are not subject to the same dress code and can wear leggings, Guerin said. But the airline was standing by its policy for pass travelers because they are essentially representing the company, he said.

"We would ask the same of pass riders who were wearing flip-flops or who were wearing clothing that revealed their undergarments or torn, tattered jeans," Guerin said.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Cops called after man shouted 'I'm going to kill you' find him alone with SPIDER

By Ruth Halkon 09:04, 26 NOV 2015 Updated 09:11, 26 NOV 2015 News

mirror.co.uk

### Terrified neighbours call police to 'domestic dispute' - but find man alone screaming at SPIDER

#### Cops received multiple calls about the sound of crashing furniture and a man screaming: "I'm going to kill you, you're dead! Die Die!!"

Terrified neighbours phoned the police after hearing a woman screaming hysterically and a man yelling: "I'm going to kill you".

But when officers arrived at the address they discovered the flat's sole occupant had been trying to catch a SPIDER .

The shamefaced man admitted he had been shouting death threats at the arachnid and had been the person behind the high pitched screaming.

According to New South Wales police in Australia, they received multiple calls about the sound of crashing furniture and a man screaming: "I'm going to kill you, you're dead! Die Die!!".

Numerous police cars responded to the address in Wollstonecraft in Sydney and began banging on the door. A man answered the door, out of breath and rather flushed.

The local area command's Facebook page documented the exchange that followed.

Police asked him: "Where's your wife?"

He responded: "Umm I don't have one"

Police then asked: "Where's your girlfriend?"

He said: "Umm I don't have one."

Police told the man neighbours had heard the screams, the threats to kill, the dull thud of flung furniture.

"Come on mate, what have you done to her?" the officer asked.

"It was a spider," the man replied sheepishly. "A really big one."

"What about the woman screaming?"

"Yeah sorry, that was me," he said. "I really, really hate spiders."

The police spokesman said it turned out the man had been chasing a large spider around his house with a can of insect spray.

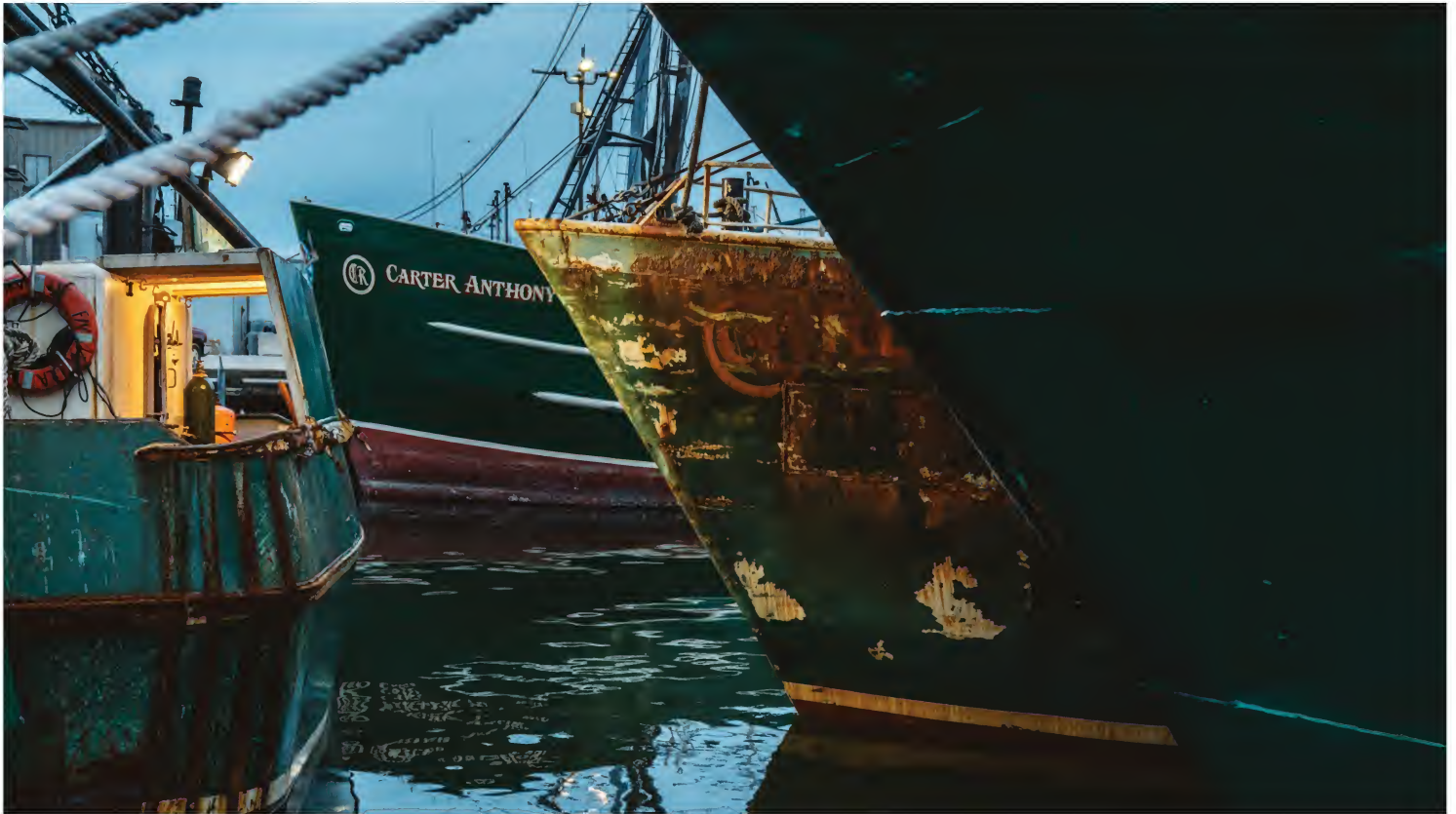
A spokesman said: "After a very long pause, some laughter and a quick look in the unit to make sure there was no injured party (apart from the spider) we left."

It is not the first time a spider has led to a police call out.

Another arachnophobe set a service station in Michigan on fire in September after he tried to scare a spider away from his petrol tank using a lighter, with predictable results.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }





## The Deliciously Fishy Case of the "Codfather"

New England's seafood industry is in deep trouble—thanks in no small part to one mogul's seriously shady business.

TEXT BY BEN GOLDFARB; PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRISTAN SPINSKI [MAR/APR 2017 ISSUE](#)



**Update, March 15, 2017, 6:38 PM EDT:** Carlos Rafael's trial has been postponed until March 30, 2017.

### The fake Russians met the Codfather

([http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal\\_rafael\\_affidavit.pdf](http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal_rafael_affidavit.pdf)) on June 3, 2015, at an inconspicuous warehouse on South Front Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The Codfather's lair is a green and white building with a peaked roof, fishing gear strewn across a fenced-in backyard, and the words "Carlos Seafood" stamped above the door. The distant gray line of the Atlantic Ocean is visible behind a towering garbage heap. In the 19th century, New Bedford's sons voyaged aboard triple-masted ships (<https://www.whalingmuseum.org/learn/research->

[topics/overview-of-north-american-whaling/vessels-and-terminology](#)) in pursuit of sperm whales; now they chase cod, haddock, and scallops. Every year, more than \$350 million ([https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/educational\\_resources/seafood/ports/new\\_bedford\\_ma.html](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/educational_resources/seafood/ports/new_bedford_ma.html)) worth of seafood passes through this waterfront, a significant slice of which is controlled by the Codfather, the most powerful fisherman in America's most valuable ([http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141029\\_usfishlandings\\_2013.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141029_usfishlandings_2013.html)) seafood port.

"The Codfather" is the local media's nickname for Carlos Rafael, a stocky mogul with drooping jowls, a smooth pate, and a backstory co-scripted by Horatio Alger and Machiavelli. He was born in the Azores (<http://www.vice.com/read/carlos-rafael-fish-interview>), a chain of Portuguese islands scattered in the Atlantic. As a teenager in 1968, he emigrated to New Bedford (<http://www.savingseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/WebPage.pdf>), where he later took a job in a fish-processing plant. (More than a third (<http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/Demographics-page-2-population.pdf>) of New Bedford's residents have Portuguese ancestors; many can trace their heritage back to the days when Yankee whalers picked up crew members from the Azores during trans-Atlantic voyages.) Rafael rose to foreman at a seafood distribution facility and later founded his own company. He bought his first boat in 1981, and then another and another, until he owned more than 40 vessels ([http://static.djimgdigital.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nbt/southcoasttoday/graphics/pdf/Carlos\\_Rafael\\_indictment.pdf](http://static.djimgdigital.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nbt/southcoasttoday/graphics/pdf/Carlos_Rafael_indictment.pdf)), many christened with Hellenic names—the *Athena*, the *Poseidon*, the *Hera*. Local newspapers (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20150913/OPINION/150919824>) hung on his pronouncements, dubbing him the "Waterfront Wizard" and the "Oracle of the Ocean."



Carlos Seafood, owned by fishing mogul Carlos Rafael, in New Bedford, Massachusetts

The Codfather also ran afoul of the law. In the 1980s he was sentenced to six months in prison for tax evasion, and in 1994 he was indicted—and acquitted—for price-fixing. In 2011, federal agents confiscated an 881-pound tuna (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20111119/NEWS/11190342>) that had been illegally netted aboard his *Apollo*. "I am a pirate," he once told regulators (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20111119/NEWS/11190342>). "It's your job to catch me." Law-abiding rivals resented him and grudgingly admired him. "He has no compunction about telling you how he's screwing you," says one ex-fisherman.

By 2015, though, Rafael was 63 years old, with assets worth tens of millions of dollars, and he was ready to cash out. According to court documents, that January he let slip that he was selling his boats and dealership; five months later, three men appeared at his warehouse to negotiate. It was an unsavory trio: two members of a Russian crime syndicate and their broker. That was fine by Rafael, who swiftly divulged his business' fraudulent underpinnings. Carlos Seafood, he said, was worth \$175 million ([http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal\\_rafael\\_affidavit.pdf](http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal_rafael_affidavit.pdf))—more than eight times what he'd claimed to the IRS. To prove it, Rafael reached under his desk and procured an envelope labeled "Cash." Each year, he boasted, he sold thousands of pounds of under-the-table fish to a New York dealer named Michael, who gave Rafael a



"bag of jingles"—cash—for the contraband. "You'll never find a better laundromat than this motherfucker," the Cofather bragged.

Rafael's fraud, which he termed "the dance," was a triumph of vertical integration. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires fishing boats to report the species and weight of their catch, among other information, each time they return from sea. Seafood dealers, meanwhile, have to submit their own reports detailing what they purchase from incoming vessels, which NOAA uses to verify fishermen's accounts. Rafael, though, was exploiting a gaping loophole: Because he owned both boats and a dealership, he could instruct his captains to misreport their catch, and then he could falsify the dealer reports to corroborate the lie. A corrupt sheriff's deputy named Antonio Freitas

([http://static.djimgdigital.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nbt/southcoasttoday/graphics/pdf/Carlos\\_Rafael\\_indictment.pdf](http://static.djimgdigital.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nbt/southcoasttoday/graphics/pdf/Carlos_Rafael_indictment.pdf)) allegedly helped him smuggle the cash to Portugal through Boston's Logan International Airport. (Freitas (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20161212/judge-severs-carlos-rafael-trial-from-sheriffs-deputy-freitas>) now faces charges for his role in the operation.)

As the Cofather described his fraud to his new acquaintances with glee, he seemed to catch occasional glimpses of his own carelessness. "You could be the IRS in here. This could be a clusterfuck. So I'm trusting you," he said. Then again, he rationalized, the IRS wouldn't be clever enough to use Russians as rats. "Fuck me," he said. "That would be some bad luck!"



A view of New Bedford, Massachusetts

Indeed. The man posing as the Russians' broker was Ronald Mullett, an undercover IRS agent. Over the next eight months, Mullett's team built its case, repeatedly meeting with Rafael and the mysterious Michael in New York City. (According to the affidavit, that was Michael Perretti

(<http://www.nytimes.com/1999/12/09/nyregion/5-dealers-charged-in-sale-of-bass-from-polluted-waters.html>), a Fulton Fish Market dealer once busted for peddling bass illegally taken from polluted waters—though he hasn't been charged for his connection to Rafael.) On February 26, 2016, federal agents arrested Rafael in a raid on his South Front Street warehouse, and in May he was indicted on 27 counts of fraud and other charges covering more than 800,000 pounds of fish. It appeared that the Codfather's kingdom had come crashing down.

(<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2017/01/barramundi-aquaculture-fish-farm-iowa-veroblue>)

From Point Judith, Rhode Island, to Penobscot, Maine, Mullett's affidavit received Zapruderlike scrutiny from industry observers. How could the Codfather have masterminded such a massive, undetected scam under the waterfront's collective nose? New Bedfordians speculated about Rafael's political connections, while environmentalists (<http://g4i->

[nbwebvarnish.newscyclecloud.com/opinion/20160327/your-view-environmental-defense-fund---monitoring-isnt-fishermans-enemy](http://nbwebvarnish.newscyclecloud.com/opinion/20160327/your-view-environmental-defense-fund---monitoring-isnt-fishermans-enemy)) blamed neutered enforcement. To many fishermen, though, the crime's roots ran even deeper, to a system that benefited empire builders like Rafael at the expense of small boats. Like farming, banking, and a host of other industries, commercial fishing has always been subject to consolidation and concentration, the accumulation of power and capital in the hands of a few at the expense of many. In some places, regulations have forestalled the process; in others, they've accelerated it. New England falls in the latter category: In 1996, about 1,200 boats ([http://www.catchshareindicators.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/NE\\_Numer-of-Active-Vessels\\_Feb2014.pdf](http://www.catchshareindicators.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/NE_Numer-of-Active-Vessels_Feb2014.pdf)) harvested groundfish (<http://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/detail/northeast-multispecies>)—that's cod, haddock, flounder, and a suite of other white, flaky bottom-dwellers—from Connecticut to Maine. By 2013, that number had dwindled to 327. "Most of the boats just rusted to the dock, like looking at a graveyard," says Jim Kendall, a seafood consultant and ex-fisherman. "More than anyone else, Carlos was big enough to survive."

For centuries, unchecked overfishing had devastated the schools of cod that once teemed in the northwest Atlantic (<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/history/stories/groundfish/grndfsh2.html>), and various rules had failed to stem the crisis. So in 2009, desperate officials voted to instate a new form of regulation, called catch shares (<https://www.edf.org/oceans/how-catch-shares-work-promising-solution>). Under catch-share systems, biologists determine the "total allowable catch," an inviolable limit to how many pounds of, say, flounder can be extracted annually from New England waters. Managers then divvy up slices of that pie to local fishermen, who are typically free to catch their slice—or sell it or rent it out to competitors—whenever they see fit. (Think cap and trade (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/cap-trade-fisheries-catch-share/>) for fish.) When each fisherman owns a stake, the rationale goes, he has an incentive to conserve: The more fish in the sea, the bigger the pie and its slices.

Catch shares can make a notoriously risky industry safer and more profitable by letting fishermen capture their share when markets and weather conditions are most favorable. After catch shares came to the West Coast sablefish (<http://www.pnas.org/content/113/10/2615.full.pdf>) industry, captains cut down on fishing during perilously windy days. Research by Tim Essington, a marine scientist at the University of Washington, suggests that while the system doesn't always create bigger fish stocks, it produces more stable populations and catch rates. "By ending the race to fish, that may allow our monitoring and science to keep up," Essington says.



The Bizarre and Inspiring Story of Iowa's Fish Farmers





David Goethel, front, and Justin MacLean, of Dover, New Hampshire, unload their day's catch.

Today, catch shares cover about two-thirds

([http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/11/with\\_americas\\_fisheries\\_rebound.html?](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/11/with_americas_fisheries_rebound.html?platform=hootsuite)

[platform=hootsuite](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/11/with_americas_fisheries_rebound.html?platform=hootsuite)) of the fish caught in US waters, from red snapper

([https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/economics/catch-](https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/economics/catch-shares/documents/Catch_Shares_Report_FINAL.pdf)

[shares/documents/Catch\\_Shares\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/economics/catch-shares/documents/Catch_Shares_Report_FINAL.pdf)) in the Gulf of Mexico to king crab

([http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/US\\_BSAI\\_Crab\\_Rationalization.pdf](http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/US_BSAI_Crab_Rationalization.pdf)),

the industry immortalized by *Deadliest Catch*, in Alaska. Catch-share

programs have proliferated overseas, too, in developed countries like Australia

([http://i.](http://i.fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/CSDM_Vol1_A_Guide_for_Managers_and_Fishermen.pdf?ga=1.187525032.1088083352.1477948097)

[http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/CSDM\\_Vol1\\_A\\_Guide\\_for\\_Managers\\_and\\_Fishermen.pdf?ga=1.187525032.1088083352.1477948097](http://i.fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/CSDM_Vol1_A_Guide_for_Managers_and_Fishermen.pdf?ga=1.187525032.1088083352.1477948097)),

New Zealand, and

Iceland and increasingly in developing ones such as Belize

([http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2010/12/13/cabinet-of-belize-approves-catch-shares-in-belizes-network-](http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2010/12/13/cabinet-of-belize-approves-catch-shares-in-belizes-network-of-marine-protected-areas/)

[of-marine-protected-areas/](http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2010/12/13/cabinet-of-belize-approves-catch-shares-in-belizes-network-of-marine-protected-areas/)) and Peru

([http://fisheries.issuelab.org/resource/catch\\_shares\\_in\\_action\\_peruvian\\_anchoveta\\_northern\\_central\\_stock\\_individual\\_vessel\\_quota\\_program](http://fisheries.issuelab.org/resource/catch_shares_in_action_peruvian_anchoveta_northern_central_stock_individual_vessel_quota_program)).

Yet for all the problems catch shares solve, the conversion of once-open fisheries to de facto private property creates plenty of new ones. Small-scale

fishermen who receive tiny slices often have no choice but to sell out to larger competitors, who accumulate fishing power like agribusinesses devouring family farms. In some cases, "armchair fishermen" have funded their retirement by leasing out their quotas, turning lesser fishermen into sharecroppers who pay exorbitant rents for the right to work. "I know Alaskan fishermen who've moved to Arizona to play golf, and all they do is manage their catch-share portfolio," says Seth Macinko, a professor of fisheries law and management at the University of Rhode Island and a former commercial fisherman. In the Gulf of Mexico, just 55 "sea lords"

([http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/kingpins\\_of\\_the\\_gulf\\_make\\_mill.html](http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/kingpins_of_the_gulf_make_mill.html)) own the rights to three-quarters of the red snapper, while nearly 500 fishermen compete for the scraps. After part of the Atlantic clam industry switched to catch shares, a single company gobbled up 27 percent (<https://books.google.com/books?id=q6BBh9Vo3O8C&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq=surf+clam+quahog+consolidation+27+percent&source=bl&ots=kRIU3QK9yu&sig=8y6jKahoxOtQVLbzPC9iyYSvaf8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=oahUKEwiAzrG5zvbQAhWrIMAKHTxwCogQ6AEIGjAA#v=onepage&q=surf%20clam%20quahog%20consolidation%2027%20percent&f=false>) of the pie.

That consolidation isn't all bad—after all, the presence of too many boats is often what caused overfishing in the first place. Still, most catch-share programs have rules to prevent concentration. No halibut fisherman in southeast Alaska, for instance, can own more than 0.5 percent (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y2498e/y2498eof.htm>) of the pie. Other fisheries reserve slices for local communities. Still others require boat owners to go to sea with their vessels, preventing armchair fishermen from stockpiling shares.



David Goethel pulls his boat into the Yankee Fishermen's Coop in Seabrook, New Hampshire, one of the few places to access local seafood from local fishermen.

But when the New England Fishery Management Council voted for catch shares in June 2009

([https://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/the\\_development\\_of\\_catch\\_shares.pdf](https://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/the_development_of_catch_shares.pdf)), such safeguards weren't part of the plan. The program already promised to be a headache—it proposed to organize fishermen into groups, called sectors, that would split their cumulative groundfish shares among members. Sectors whose members had caught more in the past would receive larger slices, an arrangement that malcontents called

([http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/the\\_catch\\_22\\_of\\_new\\_england\\_fisheries\\_catch\\_share\\_scheme/](http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/the_catch_22_of_new_england_fisheries_catch_share_scheme/)) "rewarding the pigs."

---

***he Codfather called his aggrieved small-boat competitors  
nosquitoes on the balls of an elephant."***

---

The council had to sort out the details in a hurry: The 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act ([http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/laws\\_policies/msa/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/laws_policies/msa/)), a sort of



maritime Farm Bill, mandated that all American fisheries establish catch limits by the end of 2011, and the Obama administration, a big catch-share booster, offered \$16 million

([https://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/the\\_development\\_of\\_catch\\_shares.pdf](https://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/the_development_of_catch_shares.pdf)) to help New England nail down a system. Setting accumulation limits would gum up the works: How many pounds of fish should one boat owner be allowed to acquire, how could the system prevent families from sidestepping the rules, and how should it handle fishermen whose holdings exceeded the bar? "Any kind of catch-share program should've come with meaningful consolidation caps, but the council punted that ball," says David Goethel, a New Hampshire fisherman who sat on the council. "They had so much pressure to get this program done."



The Yankee Fishermen's Coop in Seabrook, New Hampshire

Other catch-share programs have taken pains to dilute fishing power: When the West Coast groundfish industry, long dominated by a giant company called Pacific Seafood Group, transitioned to catch shares in 2010

(<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2010/12/15/2010-30527/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-management-plan-amendments-20-and>), no boat was allowed to hold more than 2.7 percent of the total catch. After the program began, fishermen who exceeded that limit had to divest by 2015. But in insular New England, similar controls would have required busting up the Northeast's most powerful fishing enterprise: Carlos Seafood Inc., the Codfather's company. "He didn't influence the process in an outward way," says Goethel, the council's sole dissenting vote. "But his corporation loomed over everything."

**When New England** instituted its catch-share system, the Codfather was the big winner. Rafael's initial slice was more than 12 million pounds (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20100502/NEWS/5020337>), about 9 percent of New England's total. Many small fishermen soon sold or leased him even more — some were eager to cash out, while others hadn't received enough groundfish to make a living. By 2013, three years after the program began, the Codfather was raking in more than a full quarter of New England's groundfish revenue. When a reporter from *Vice* (<http://www.vice.com/read/carlos-rafael-fish-interview>) visited the South Front Street warehouse that year, he found that Rafael had adorned his office with pictures of Tony Montana, the cocaine kingpin from *Scarface*. His aggrieved small-boat competitors, the Codfather said, were "mosquitoes on the balls of an elephant."

And anyway, the new system, along with the disappearance of cod, took many of those small competitors out of the equation. In 2010, the first year of catch shares, more than 440 boats ([http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/pdf/groundfish\\_report\\_fy2013.pdf](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/pdf/groundfish_report_fy2013.pdf)) were catching groundfish in New England; by 2013, about 120 of those vessels had left the game. Although stringent catch limits aimed at rehabilitating cod stocks downsized the entire industry, small boats dropped out at around twice the rate of larger ones, according to federal reports ([http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/pdf/groundfish\\_report\\_fy2013.pdf](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/pdf/groundfish_report_fy2013.pdf)). The poster child for disaster was Sector 10 (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dmf/publications/sector-10-report-III4II.pdf>), a cluster of small-scale fishermen scattered along the coast south of Boston who received only a tiny slice of the pie. The collective's groundfish revenue fell by more than half during the program's first year. Some guys switched to other species, like lobster and squid, that weren't subject to quotas; others dropped out. Some lost their homes. "Now there are some days when I'm the only boat out there fishing," says Ed Barrett, a fisherman based in Marshfield, Massachusetts, and Sector 10's former president. "It's like, where the fuck is everyone?"



Ed Barrett, a member of the Massachusetts fishermen's association

To be clear, the catch-share system didn't create inequity—Rafael began swatting the mosquitoes decades before it came into play. But it drove the gap into "hyperspeed," Barrett says. And while the Codfather's scheme may well have predated catch shares—Rafael told Mullett he'd been conducting the dance for 30 years—consolidation can expand the scope of existing fraud, by dragging once-independent fishermen, and fishing access, into the orbit of a deep-pocketed cheater. In 2014, American Seafoods Company, the biggest player in Alaskan pollock, paid \$1.75 million

([http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/morning\\_call/2014/10/american-seafoods-settles-scales-spatwith-noaa-for.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/morning_call/2014/10/american-seafoods-settles-scales-spatwith-noaa-for.html)) for skewing its scales to fool the feds. "Any industry is susceptible to corruption, and the lack of [controls against consolidation] is the Achilles heel of the groundfish quota system," wrote the magazine *National Fisherman* (<http://www.nationalfisherman.com/blogs/the-rudderpost/6328-curse-of-the-codfather>) after Rafael's arrest.

And the program's structure produced a new incentive to cheat. As you'd expect, fishermen are allowed to catch more of comparatively common species than rare ones. That can quickly become a problem: You might own a big slice



of the haddock pie, but if your net happens to catch flounder, you must either stop fishing or rent more flounder quota from your peers. Rafael simply mislabeled the other kinds of groundfish as haddock, an abundant species for which he owned millions of pounds. "This is the shit we painted all week," he told the IRS ([http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal\\_rafael\\_affidavit.pdf](http://www.urnerbarry.com/criminal_rafael_affidavit.pdf)), pointing to his cooked ledgers. "See? Seven hundred...We call these haddock."

New England's lax enforcement created still more opportunity. While all West Coast

([http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2015\\_west\\_coast\\_catch\\_shares\\_program\\_update\\_and\\_economic\\_data\\_collection\\_insert.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2015_west_coast_catch_shares_program_update_and_economic_data_collection_insert.pdf)) groundfish boats carry government--paid observers whenever they leave port, just 14 percent

(<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2016/04/30/feds-call-less-monitoring-new-england-cod-fishery>) of groundfish trips in New England are similarly monitored. The Nature Conservancy

(<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/massachusetts/newsroom/cameras-to-be-used-for-monitoring-new-england-groundfish-fishery-for-the-fir.xml>) and others are experimenting with onboard electronic monitoring systems—cameras with GPS and sensors—that would supplant human overseers, but they're years from implementation. And while the catch-share program originally called for dockside agents to prevent fraud, NOAA curtailed its efforts in 2010 after an inspector general report rebuked the agency for overzealous policing. The lack of enforcement frustrates Joshua Wiersma, the Northeast fisheries manager for the Environmental Defense Fund. "Unless we have effective monitoring, the odds that something like Carlos is going to happen again are pretty good," he says.

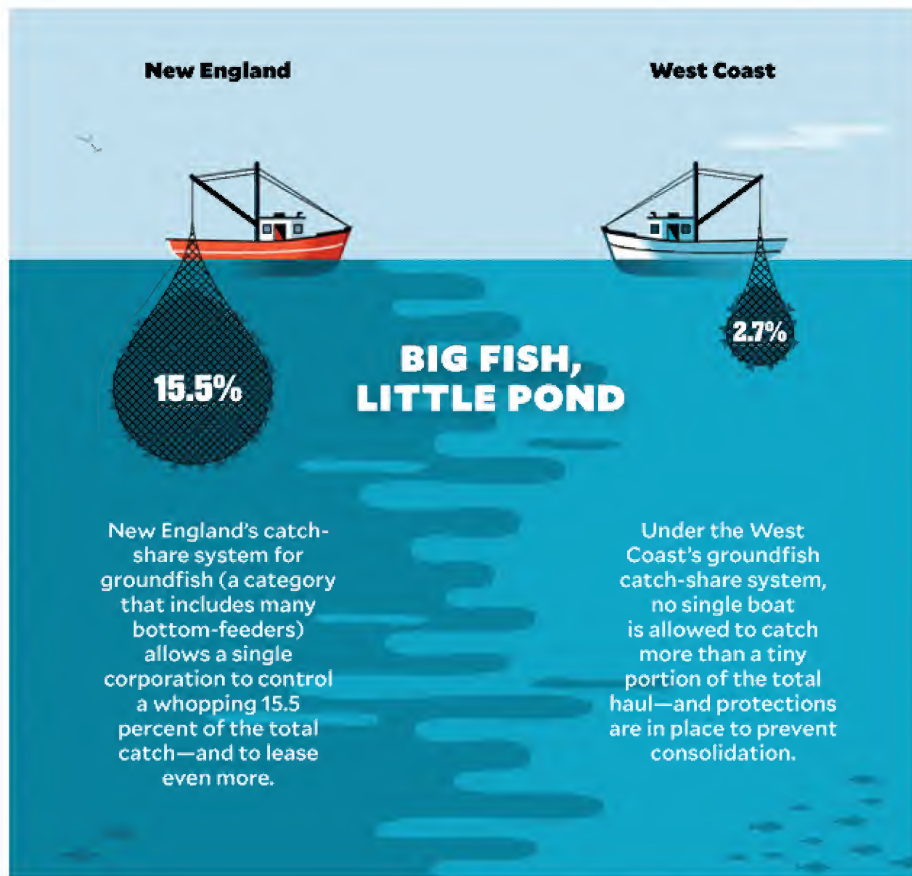
In fact, something like Carlos is *already* happening again—and it's still Carlos. In August 2016, with Rafael out of prison on a \$1 million bond, his *Lady Patricia* was boarded by the Coast Guard for illegal fishing, according to an incident report. He's also continued (<http://www.foodrepublic.com/2016/07/26/why-is-this-indicted-seafood-mogul-still-buying-more-fishing-boats/>) to acquire vessels. Because the Codfather has stashed control of his boats within a warren of companies all listed at the same address, it's difficult to know exactly what he owns—but in June, his wife, Conceicao, purchased a new boat under the auspices of yet another company. The company's name seemed to raise a middle finger at critics: Nemesis LLC.

**Carlos Rafael's** arrest has, by most measures, upended New England's fishing industry. To account for years of unreported catch, NOAA will likely recalibrate its population estimates, which could lead to further cuts to quotas. "The biggest victims are the fishermen themselves, the honest operations that are trying to make a living," says Peter Shelley, the Massachusetts senior counsel at the Conservation Law Foundation. But if there's a silver lining, it's that Rafael's arrest offers a giant reset button for a beleaguered fishery, an opportunity to redistribute the catch in a more equitable way.

On a steel-gray November morning, I drove down South Front Street, not far from the Codfather's green warehouse, to meet a fisherman with a different

approach to business.

I found Armando Estudante by his 120-foot boat, the *Endurance*. Estudante is a bowling ball of a man, with hands and wrists swollen by years of labor and a brushy gray mustache dangling over his upper lip. He moved to Massachusetts from Portugal in 1978 and purchased his first boat in the early '80s.



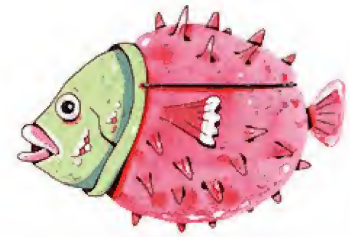
John Tomac

These days, the *Endurance* fishes for scallops, shellfish that are managed by a different system. Estudante still owns a groundfish quota, but he leases it to other fishermen, often at below-market rates. "To have someone profit by staying at home while someone else goes fishing, to me, is a disgrace," he said. "You remove the incentive for new blood to come into the fishery. That's what you're seeing here in the Northeast—who the fuck wants to go fishing? Because you have to pay rent to people that don't go."

Far better, Estudante said, to have a "boots on deck" rule that forces boat owners to run their own vessels. You don't have to look far for an example, he added. Maine's lobster industry is governed by such a provision ([http://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/evaluationoflobsterlimitedentry2012\\_2.pdf](http://www.gmri.org/sites/default/files/resource/evaluationoflobsterlimitedentry2012_2.pdf)) and is famously self-regulating and sustainable (<https://maritimestudiesjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/2212-9790-13-8>). "It's not such a radical idea," Estudante insisted.

For some fishermen, though, transferable catch shares evoke Winston Churchill's quip about democracy: They're the worst form of fisheries management, except for everything else that's been tried. Making the existing

system more equitable—as some regions already have done—has long been the crusade of the [Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance](http://www.namanet.org/about-us) (<http://www.namanet.org/about-us>), a Gloucester, Massachusetts-based group that advocates on behalf of small-scale fishermen and local seafood. NAMA's efforts are spearheaded by Brett Tolley, a lanky, bearded descendant of four generations of Cape Cod fishermen. Tolley has spent years campaigning for systemic reforms that, among other measures to protect small boats, would include consolidation limits. In October 2015, he organized a protest in which dozens of irate fishermen stormed out of a meeting of the New England Fishery Management Council. But when the council finally published the long-awaited safeguards last year, it capped ownership at 15.5 percent of the total quota—far higher than many other fisheries, and too high to rein in even the Codfather. And while the new rules limit the amount of quota that fishermen can own, there's no constraint on how many pounds they can rent from their peers. "To us, that's a complete failure to deal with the problem," Tolley says.



[Fishy Story: Our Faux Fish Problem](#)

---

For all the angst that catch shares have caused, New England's fishermen have bigger concerns. Cod, the fish that launched a thousand boats, hover at catastrophically low levels—[5 percent](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/operational-assessments-2015/Reports/2015_COD_GM_Assessment_Report_20150915.pdf)

([http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/operational-assessments-](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/operational-assessments-2015/Reports/2015_COD_GM_Assessment_Report_20150915.pdf)

[2015/Reports/2015\\_COD\\_GM\\_Assessment\\_Report\\_20150915.pdf](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/operational-assessments-2015/Reports/2015_COD_GM_Assessment_Report_20150915.pdf)) of the target in the Gulf of Maine, and [climate change](#)

([http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive/LatestNews/TabId/684/ArtMID/1768/ArticleID/11410](http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive/LatestNews/TabId/684/ArtMID/1768/ArticleID/11410/Warming-waters-a-major-factor-in-Gulf-of-Maine-cod-collapse.aspx)

[/Warming-waters-a-major-factor-in-Gulf-of-Maine-cod-collapse.aspx](http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive/LatestNews/TabId/684/ArtMID/1768/ArticleID/11410/Warming-waters-a-major-factor-in-Gulf-of-Maine-cod-collapse.aspx)) is thwarting their recovery. Off-brand species like dogfish and black sea bass have flourished in [New England's](http://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/regional_data/) ([http://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/regional\\_data/](http://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/regional_data/)) warm new world, but they've [struggled](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/aquaculture_in_us.html) ([http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/aquaculture\\_in\\_us.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/aquaculture_in_us.html)) to find a niche in markets saturated with farmed salmon, shrimp, and tilapia.

Resourceful small-scale fishermen have begun vending their catch through community-supported fisheries, launching co-ops, and peddling their wares directly to restaurants—approaches that have lighter environmental impacts than industrial fishing. Yet none of this has slowed the industry's erosion. A Trump administration proposal to slash NOAA's budget by [17 percent](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/03/white-house-proposes-steep-budget-cut-to-leading-climate-science-agency/?utm_term=.4ef565a00e9e) ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/03/white-house-proposes-steep-budget-cut-to-leading-climate-science-agency/?utm\\_term=.4ef565a00e9e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/03/white-house-proposes-steep-budget-cut-to-leading-climate-science-agency/?utm_term=.4ef565a00e9e))—including a 5 percent cut to its subdivision, the National Marine Fisheries Service—could make fishermen's lives more difficult by impairing the agency's ability to provide satellite weather forecasts and reliable fish population assessments. "You see small pockets of fishing boats here and there that make great backgrounds for postcards, but this business is collapsing, piece by piece," says Scott Lang, New Bedford's former mayor.





Brett Tolley, a community organizer with Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, an organization that promotes the symbiosis between a healthy environment and local fishing economies

Although Rafael faced up to 25 years (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/owner-commercial-fishing-business-and-local-sheriff-s-deputy-indicted-sscheme-falsify>) in prison and \$500,000 in fines if convicted, no one expected the case to reach trial—and, sure enough, Rafael will plead guilty before a federal judge in Boston on Thursday, March 16. Yet many New England fishermen are less concerned with the Codfather's fate than with the fate of his property. According to the indictment, Rafael may be forced to surrender the boats he used to commit his fraud—and the fishing permit and quota attached to each vessel. The disbursement of those forfeited assets will be contentious. Jon Mitchell (<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20160625/carlos-rafael-trial-could-have-huge-stakes>), New Bedford's mayor, has lobbied NOAA to keep the Codfather's shares in his home port, arguing that innocent fishermen's "livelihoods depend on the continuation of the business," according to a local newspaper. In other places, environmental groups (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/28/science/earth/nature-conservancy-partners-with-california-fishermen.html>) have swooped in to snatch up fishing shares and remove them from circulation.

Neither option sits particularly well with Brett Tolley, who advocates making the Codfather's property available to the fishermen who have been most

disadvantaged by regulations—small boats, for instance, or young people who weren't grandfathered into the catch-share system. There's precedent for such a "permit bank" concept: The Penobscot East Resource Center, an organization devoted to the rehabilitation of Maine's flagging fisheries, owns two permits and leases out access to fishermen. Several states run banks, too. From the ashes of the Codfather's empire could rise a more equitable distribution of the catch. "How do we protect fleet diversity? How do we prevent excessive consolidation? How do we ensure multiple generations of fishermen get access?" Tolley demands. "All communities have a stake in how this turns out."

*This article was produced in collaboration with [FERN \(https://thefern.org/\)](https://thefern.org/), the Food and Environment Reporting Network.*

---

**BEN GOLDFARB** ([/AUTHORS/BEN-GOLDFARB](#))

Ben is a correspondent for High Country News, covering wildlife science, fisheries management and Northwestern resource politics.

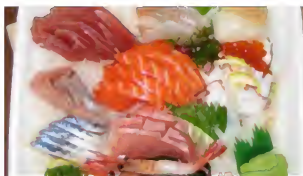
Mother Jones is a nonprofit, and stories like this are made possible by readers like you. [Donate](#) ([https://secure.motherjones.com/fnp?action=SUBSCRIPTION&list\\_source=7HEGP004&extra\\_don=i&abver=A](https://secure.motherjones.com/fnp?action=SUBSCRIPTION&list_source=7HEGP004&extra_don=i&abver=A)) or [subscribe](#) ([https://secure.motherjones.com/fnx?action=SUBSCRIPTION&pub\\_code=MJM&term\\_pub=MJM&list\\_source=SEGYN4&base\\_country=US](https://secure.motherjones.com/fnx?action=SUBSCRIPTION&pub_code=MJM&term_pub=MJM&list_source=SEGYN4&base_country=US)) to help fund independent journalism.

## **RELATED**



([environment/2016/06/smart-companies-making-seafood-safer](#))  
[Economies of Scale: Smart Ideas to Fight Fish Fraud](#) ([environment/2016/06/smart-companies-making-seafood-safer](#))

**MADDIE OATMAN** ([/AUTHORS/MADDIE-OATMAN](#))



([blue-marble/2011/10/consumer-reports-seafood-fraud-snapper-halibut](#))  
[The Case of the Missing Red Snapper](#) ([blue-marble/2011/10/consumer-reports-seafood-fraud-snapper-halibut](#))

**MADDIE OATMAN** ([/AUTHORS/MADDIE-OATMAN](#))

---

## **+ VIEW COMMENTS**

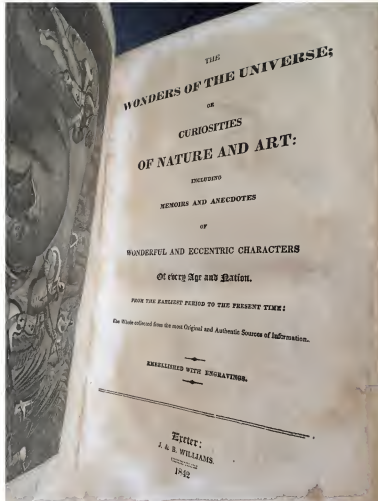
([HTTP://MOTHERJONES.DISQUS.COM/?](http://motherjones.disqus.com/?)

[URL=HTTP%3A%2F%2FWWW.MOTHERJONES.COM%2FN](http://motherjones.com/environment/2017/03/codfather-carlos-rafael-fish-fraud-catchshares?utm_source=fark&utm_medium=website&utm_content=lin...)  
[ODE%2F324346\)](http://motherjones.com/environment/2017/03/codfather-carlos-rafael-fish-fraud-catchshares?utm_source=fark&utm_medium=website&utm_content=lin...)



## The Oddest Family that Ever Lived, from The Wonders of the Universe

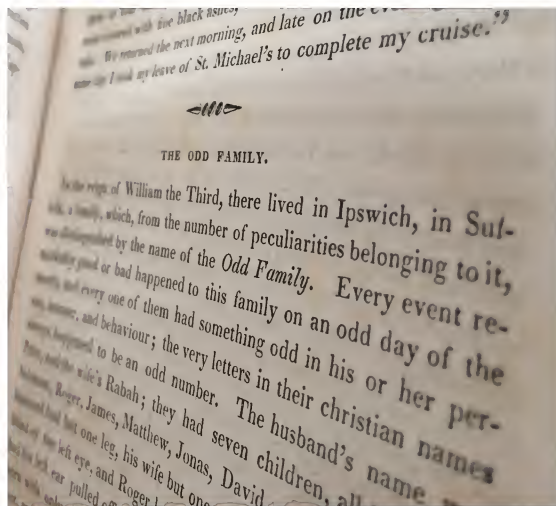
weirdhistorian.com



The Wonders of the Universe, published in 1842.

The Wonders of the Universe, as the title page suggests, offers memoirs and anecdotes of wonderful and eccentric characters throughout history. One of my favorite stories is about the **Odd Family**. Their story is so incredibly odd, it's difficult to believe. I've seen no other record of them, but then, their story dates to the late 17th century when not everything was recorded as it is today. Perhaps it's true, perhaps it's filled with exaggerations or maybe it's simply folklore. But regardless of its veracity, it's an entertaining tale. The full story is below:

In the reign of William the Third, there lived in Ipswich, in Suffolk, a family, which, from the number of peculiarities belonging to it, was distinguished by the name of the *Odd Family*. Every event remarkably good or bad happened to this family on an odd day of the month, and every one of them had something odd in his or her person, manner, and behavior; the very letters in their christian names always happened to be an odd number. The husband's name was Peter, and the wife's Rabah; they had seven children, all boys, viz Solomon, Roger, James, Matthew, Jonas, David, and Ezekiel.



The Odd Family, from the book "The Wonder of the Universe" published in 1842.

The husband had but one leg, his wife but one arm. Solomon was born blind of the left eye, and Roger lost his right eye by accident; James had his left ear pulled off by a boy in a quarrel, and Matthew was born with only three fingers on his right hand; Jonas had a stump foot, and David was hump-backed; all these, except David, were remarkably short, while Ezekiel was six feet two inches high at the age of nineteen; the stump-footed Jonas, and the hump-backed David, got wives of fortune; but no girl would listen to the addresses of the rest. The husband's hair was as black as jet, and the wife's remarkably white, yet every one of the children's was red. The husband had the peculiar misfortune of falling into a deep saw-pit, where he was starved to death in the year 1701; and his wife, refusing all kinds of sustenance, died in five days after him. In the year 1703, Ezekiel enlisted as a grenadier, and although he was afterwards wounded in twenty-three places he recovered.

Roger, James, Matthew, Jonas, and David, died at different places on the same day in 1713, and Solomon and Ezekiel were drowned together in crossing the Thames, in the year 1723.

Weird Historian Copyright © 2017.

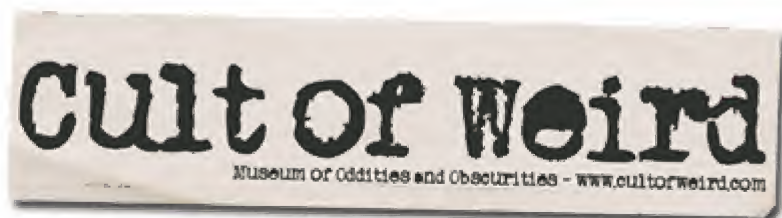
/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## The Sad Hour: Rare 1900s Coffin Plaque Used to Indicate the Time of Death

cultofweird.com

By Charlie Hintz on December 31, 2016



**This rare and early example of decorative coffin hardware includes a clock which could be set to display the exact time of the deceased's passing.**



*The Sad Hour coffin plaque*

*The Sad Hour coffin plaque. Image via @macabrecollector*

Reaching it's height at the end of the 19th century, the "beautification of death" movement brought with it a variety of changes to the way society encountered death. Embalming, mourning rituals, and the development of post-mortem photography elevated the funeral process to near-theatrical levels. The plain old pine box just wouldn't do anymore. Coffins became much more elaborate, incorporating curvy forms, glass windows, and decorative hardware like swing bail handles, thumbscrews for securing the lid and other removable panels, escutcheons, and plaques.

Coffin plaques saw the most use in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The affluent could afford ornate gold or silver plated brass plaques to adorn the lids of their coffins, engraved with their names and other information. Less expensive plaques were stamped with things like "Mother," "Our Darling," or "At Rest." Members of the Odd Fellows fraternal order were buried with metal emblems depicting the all-seeing eye, a handshake, and three interlocking rings surrounded by rays of light.

The Sad Hour plaque seems to be an extremely rare example, including a clock with hour and minute hands used to indicate time of death.



**This amazing piece is for sale on ebay right here.**

Cult of Weird is an online museum of the bizarre, serving weird news and oddities to thousands of curious and macabre minds every day. Have you been initiated?

Copyright ©2017 Cult of Weird. Daily weird news and oddities. Lodge #8113

*Side view of The Sad Hour coffin plaque*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

# The Chirurgeon's Apprentice

## The Surgeon who Operated on Himself by The Chirurgeon's Apprentice



Leonid Ivanovich Rogozov (pictured above and below right) knew he was in trouble when he began experiencing intense pain in lower right quadrant of his abdomen. He had been feeling unwell for several days, but suddenly, his temperature skyrocketed and he was overcome by waves of nausea. The 27-year-old surgeon knew it could only be one thing: appendicitis.

The year was 1961, and under normal circumstances, appendicitis was not life-threatening. But Rogozov was stuck in the middle of the Antarctica, surrounded by nothing but thousands of square miles of snow and ice, far from civilization. He was one of thirteen researchers who had just embarked on the sixth Soviet Antarctic Expedition.

And he was the only doctor.

At first, Rogozov resigned himself to his fate. He wrote in his diary (<http://all-that-is-interesting.com/doctor-removed-own-appendix/>):



*It seems that I have appendicitis. I am keeping quiet about it, even smiling. Why frighten my friends? Who could be of help? A polar explorer's only encounter with medicine is likely to have been in a dentist's chair.*

He was right that there was no one who could help. Even if there had been another research station within a reasonable distance, the blizzard raging outside Rogozov's own encampment would have prevented anyone from reaching him. An evacuation by air was out of the question in those



treacherous conditions. As the situation grew worse, the young Soviet surgeon did the only thing he could think of: he prepared to operate on himself.

Rogozov was not the first to attempt a self-appendectomy. In 1921, the American surgeon Evan O'Neill Kane undertook an impromptu experiment after he too was diagnosed with a severe case of appendicitis. He wanted to know whether invasive surgery performed under local anesthetic could be painless. Kane had several patients who had medical conditions which prevented them from undergoing general anesthetic. If he could remove his own appendix using just a local anesthetic, Kane reasoned that he could operate on others without having to administer ether, which he believed was dangerous and overused in surgery.

Lying in the operating theater at the Kane Summit Hospital, the 60-year-old surgeon announced his intentions to his staff. As he was Chief of Surgery, no one dared disagree with him. Kane proceeded by administering novocaine—a local anesthetic that had only recently replaced the far more dangerous drug, cocaine—as well as adrenalin into his abdominal wall. Propping himself up on pillows and using mirrors, he began cutting into his abdomen. At one point, Kane leaned too far forward and part of his intestines popped out. The seasoned surgeon calmly shoved his guts back into their rightful place before continuing with the operation. Within thirty minutes, he had located and removed the swollen appendix. Kane later said that he could have completed the operation more rapidly had it not been for the staff flitting around him nervously, unsure of what they were supposed to do.



Emboldened by his success, Kane decided to repair his own inguinal hernia under local anesthetic eleven years later. The operation was carried out with the press in attendance. This operation was more dangerous than the appendectomy because of the risk of puncturing the femoral artery. Unfortunately, this second surgery was tricky, and ended up taking well over an hour. Kane never fully regained his strength. He eventually came down with pneumonia, and died three months later.

Back in Antarctica, Rogozov enlisted the help of his colleagues, who assisted with mirrors and retractors as the surgeon cut deep into his own abdomen. After forty-five minutes, Rogozov began experiencing weakness and vertigo, and had to take short breaks. Eventually he was able to remove the offending organ and sew up the incision (pictured below, recovering). Miraculously, Rogozov was able to return to work within two weeks.



The incident captured the imagination of the Soviet public at the time. After he returned from the expedition, Rogozov was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour. The incident also brought about a change in policy. Thereafter, extensive health checks became mandatory for personnel before their departure for Antarctica was sanctioned.

*If you enjoy my blog, please consider supporting my content by clicking [HERE](#).*

<http://www.patreon.com/drlindseyfitzharris>

This entry was posted in [Casebooks](#) and tagged [believe it or not](#), [edutainment](#), [Histmed](#), [history of medicine](#), [leonid ivanovich rogozov](#), [lindsey fitzharris](#), [med school](#), [Medical History](#), [self surgery](#), [Surgery](#), [the chirurgeons's apprentice](#), [the more you know](#), [TIL](#).

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)

## People think this Thomas the Tank Engine toy is saying 'f\*\*\* a duck' metro.co.uk

Metro News Reporter for Metro.co.uk Thursday 9 Mar 2017 7:08 pm



*People think this Thomas the Tank Engine toy is saying 'f\*\*\* a duck'*

'backing up'.

You wouldn't expect Thomas to say this

**A mum claims a talking Thomas the Tank Engine toy she bought for her kids says 'f\*\*\* a duck'.**

Footage shows the remote-controlled train chugging along before apparently blurting out the rude phrase.

The toy, which costs around £15, is part of the 'My First Thomas' range aimed at children aged 18 months to three years and is believed to supposed to be saying

But one mum who shared a clip of it on her blog says it certainly doesn't sound like that – and she'd be horrified if her two-year-old son started repeating it.

The anonymous author of the Biscuits and Baby Wipes blog, known only as Anna, wrote: 'If anyone hears my toddler swearing, he didn't get it from me.'

'My son was given this toy as a present by his grandmother and was playing with it on a quiet weekend when I heard it say 'f\*\*\* a duck'.

'I don't know whether it's a defect or if it's damaged but me and my husband both noticed it and gasped.'



Anna said her and her husband try not to swear in front of their son because they don't want him saying phrases like that.

'He is still playing with it because by the time he can talk he will probably be on to the next thing, but if he starts saying it we'll have to stop him using it,' she added.

'I hope there aren't any other older kids that play with it because it just

sounds dodgy.

'I would have thought or hoped they would notice it during testing. Maybe it's pre-recorded and it's become muffled.



'Friends and family have found it amusing but if he had been a bit older he could have repeated it and I don't think I'd find it funny then.'

The official Thomas toy, which is made by Fisher-Price, is sold at leading toy shops including Tesco, Argos, Toys 'R' Us, Amazon, Mothercare and Smyths.

But while most online reviews are positive, other parents have also noticed its foul-mouthed tendencies.

One customer, Debora Howsley, said: 'When it says 'backing up' it sounds like its (sic) swearing. May only be me that notices it!!'

A spokeswoman for Mattel, which owns Fisher-Price, said it is investigating.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

[Back to top](#)

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Nevada trooper drenched by 'tidal wave of beer' on interstate in Las Vegas

upi.com



A Nevada State Trooper and the car he pulled over are struck by a "tidal wave of beer" that fell from a truck. Screenshot: KSNV-TV

March 2 (UPI) -- A Nevada Highway Patrol dashboard camera was recording when a trooper speaking to a driver was drenched by a load of beer that fell from a truck.

The highway patrol said Trooper Travis Smaka had pulled a driver over for speeding Monday near the Washington exit of Interstate 15 in Las Vegas.

"You guys have anything to drink tonight?" Trooper Travis Smaka asks the vehicle's occupants in the dashboard camera footage.

The driver says he has not been drinking, and moments later the sound of a truck losing its load of beer can be heard.

"Just as I ask the question, I hear the sound that always gets the hairs on my neck standing up, of brakes locking up," Smaka told KSNV-TV.

The video shows a wave of beer from shattered bottles go straight toward the trooper.

"Well, over 1,000 pounds of beer shattering and a tidal wave of beer coming at me," Smaka said.

Smaka said the driver of the car he pulled over did not appear to be impaired and he let him go without a speeding ticket due to his car being pelted with beer bottles and cans.

Troopers said the semi is believed to have lost its load due to slamming on its brakes when cut off by another vehicle.

A similar crash on a Florida highway last year didn't drench any troopers, but it did take the highway happy hour to the next logical level by also involving a truckload of potato chips that ended up in the roadway along with the load of Busch beer.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

# Stonemason finds time capsule from 1880 hidden in secret chamber metro.co.uk



Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Thursday 23 Feb 2017 2:49 pm



The time capsule was found discovered in a reclaimed slab of stone (Picture: SWNS)

A stonemason has made an incredible discovery after finding a time capsule from 1880.

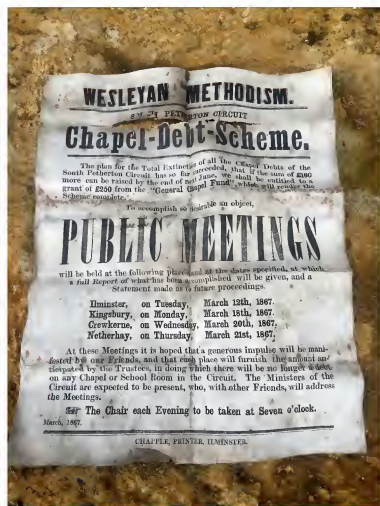
It was hidden inside a block of stone that James Whiting was sawing through after reclaiming it.

Inside the secret chamber there was a glass jar stuffed with 152-year-old documents.

The forgotten relic had public letters and notices including a weekly newspaper from Friday, June 4, 1880, crammed

inside.

James found the time treasure trove as he cut the stone at Castle Reclamation in Martock, near Yeovil, Somerset., which specialise in architectural salvage.



One of the papers that was discovered in the capsule (Picture: SWNS)

The exact source of the Hamstone – also known as Jurassic limestone – is uncertain, but it is believed to have come in from a local builder's yard.

James was cutting through a pile of old Hamstone in the salvage yard – ready to be carved into stone quoins for a doorway.

But he got more than he bargained for when the split stone revealed a hidden carved chamber containing the bottle and papers.

He said: 'I tried to get the bottle out very carefully and looked inside.

'There was a newspaper inside. Most of it was damaged, but some parts you could still read.'

The newspaper was The Methodist – a weekly newspaper and review, number 432 from Friday, June 4, 1880 and priced 1d.

A weekly newspaper was dated June 4, 1880 (Picture: SWNS)

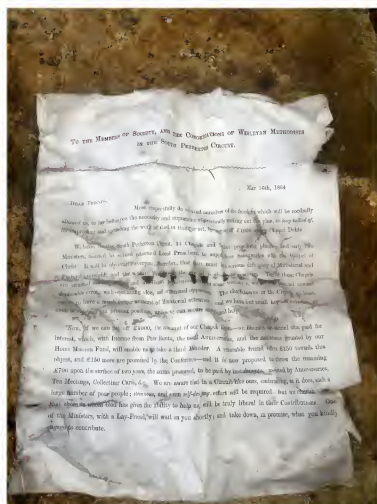
More papers that were stuffed into the bottle (Picture: SWNS)

The bottle also contained papers relating to the South Petherton circuit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

'It would have been tricky to have done this at the time,' added James.

Both EU referendum campaigns are being investigated over spending





'We have new tools, but back then they would have had to cut it out and carve it simply with a steel chisel. We now have saws.'

The golden coloured stone – quarried at Ham Hill, Somerset – is used for many buildings, including medieval churches in the area.

Mr Whiting said he is considering replacing the bottle and putting the stone back together the way he found it – possibly with the

addition of contemporary newspaper.

He said: 'It would be a surprise for someone else to come across, maybe in another 150 years' time.'



The stone was being carved to build a doorway (Picture: SWNS)

Bosses at Castle Reclamation say the glass jar and artefacts are now 'up for grabs'.

Castle Reclamation director Adrian Wills, 59, said: 'We had some old stone which we'd had for years when a job came in to cut it up.

'It's such a rare find, it's 150 years old, and it's amazing really that it just turned up like that.

'We have cut through stone and found some fossils before but this is something quite special.

'We might put it on display or approach a local history group – it's up for grabs. Whoever wants it can have it.

'It's just a shame we cannot find out where it came from. We bought the stone three to four years ago from a builder's yard.

'We were making stone coins to go in a doorway.'

A letter headed: 'To the Members of Society, and the Congregations of Wesleyan Methodists in the South Petherton Circuit', dated, May 16, 1864 as well as a notice of the Wesleyan Methodism of the South Petherton Circuit, printed at the Chapel Printer Ilminster at the time.

A note said:

'The plan for the Total Extinction of all the Chapel Debts of the South Petherton Circuit has so far succeeded, that if the sum of £160 more can be raised by the end of next June, we shall be entitled to a grant of £250 from the 'General Chapel Fund', which will render the Scheme complete. To accomplish so desirable an object, PUBLIC MEETINGS will be held at the following places.'

It then lists dates between March 12 and March 21, 1867 for meetings in Illminster, Kingsbury, Crewkerne and Netherhay.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman hid in Wetherspoon's toilet until after closing to nick beer and sandwich [metro.co.uk](http://metro.co.uk)

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 22 Feb 2017 10:52 am



Woman hid in Wetherspoon's toilet until staff left so she could steal beer and sandwiches

Jacqui Holdsworth has been jailed for four months (Picture: Google Street View)

A woman has been jailed after she hid in the toilet of a Wetherspoon pub to nick a load of beer and sandwiches.

Jacqui Holdsworth locked herself in at the Flora Sandes pub in Thornton Heath, South London.

She was spotted on CCTV trying different drinks and making herself a sandwich before realising she couldn't actually get out.

She called her boyfriend and he came to help her take a binbag containing £325 in

food and alcohol.

She claimed she had gone to the toilet to wash herself and brush her teeth then fell asleep in the cubicle.

Holdsworth said from the dock that the allegations were 'all lies' and added: 'I'm as good as gold. I was hungry so I made a sandwich.'

She claims to have been attacked by police arresting her and shouted: 'Why will no-one listen to me.'

Holdsworth handed a letter to the court outlining the various wrongs that had been done to her.

Magistrate Louise Ballam told her: 'Over the last few months you have committed or been found guilty of a number of offences.

'It appears to me the only possible sentence in respect of all matters is one of imprisonment.'

As she was jailed for four months, Holdsworth began ranting at the magistrate

She was given a month in prison for the burglary and what was described as a 'nasty assault' on the police officer.

She was dragged from the dock shouting: 'I am going to the IPCC, you do not know what you are talking about.'

Holdsworth, from Croydon, was previously found guilty in her absence of burglary, assaulting a police officer, failing to surrender twice and breaching her community order.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Depressed women "experience death" lying in shallow graves in 'tomb classroom'

By Kara O'Neill 11:01, 23 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/depressed-women-experience-death-lying-9901900>

**Liu Taijie founded the 'grave classroom' after her own suicide attempt in the hope that it could benefit other women**



`

Thank you for subscribing!  
Could not subscribe, try again laterInvalid Email

Hopeless women are being invited to the 'grave classroom' to experience death - in the hope that it will give them a new lease of life.

Liu Taijie, 30, founded the unique experience after her attempt to take her own life three years ago.

She had reached rock bottom after being unable to get a job at the same time her marriage started

failing.

But after her recovery, she decided she would use her own experiences to make a difference to the lives of other women.



*Divorced women lie in 'tombs' to meditate on their life in Gele Mountain in southwest China's Chongqing*

Liu created the 'grave classroom', which consists of a small piece of open land on a hillside with six shallow graves dug into it.

Women are then invited to lie in the holes and contemplate the world without them in it.

They are also given mindfulness lessons in the grave classroom, and encouraged to regain their confidence and self-worth .

Liu, from Chongqing in south west China, said: "I was abandoned by my husband, I was despised by my family.

"I was deceived by a pyramid selling scam and I wanted to die.

"Tears are useless and death cannot solve problems. I want to change and use my experience to help women."

As reported by the People's Daily China , one emotional woman who had recently used the 'grave classroom' told the camera: "When I think of that if I were dead - my parents, my child and my husband...

"They would not be able to take it."

Liu added: "Through experiencing death, I hope to dare them to face life, to appreciate life.

"To have an optimistic attitude towards failures and towards life. To have a better future."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Too few flushes get legislative candidate thrown off ballot

**AP** MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press February 24, 2017

Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A Democratic candidate's run for the Pennsylvania Legislature is down the drain — partly because he used too little water at the house he claimed as his residence.

A state judge on Thursday threw Frederick Ramirez off the ballot in the race for an open House seat in Philadelphia.

The judge found that low water and electric use at the house Ramirez claimed as his residence showed he really didn't live in the district.

According to testimony, for 11 months he was billed for a total of about 3,000 gallons of water, or the equivalent of less than two toilet flushes a day on average.

His lawyer said the low numbers, showing zero use in some months, are misleading because of how bills are calculated.

Neighbors testified they never saw Ramirez on their block, the bedroom light was always on and the home never seemed to put out trash for curbside pickup.

"The fact that there are no photographs or pictures on the walls, combined with the fact that his daughter's room is still decorated for an infant, more strongly reveals that (the) candidate is not domiciled at (the house), but merely uses that location as a convenient place to stay" when he is working at a nearby clinic he owns, wrote Commonwealth Court Judge Anne Covey.

The seat became vacant with the Jan. 3 resignation of Democratic Rep. Leslie Acosta. She had been re-elected in November, about two months after her secret guilty plea of conspiracy to commit money laundering to a federal judge became public.

Ramirez's lawyer, Adam Bonin, said the property is indeed Ramirez's home. Bonin said he is considering his options, including a potential appeal.

"Obviously, and especially given when this decision was handed down, time is of the essence," Bonin said.

The judge's ruling leaves just one candidate on the ballot for the March 21 special election, Republican Lucinda Little, in what is an overwhelmingly Democratic district.

"I feel that justice has prevailed," Little said Friday. "We need a representative that actually lives in the district, that actually cares about the district."

A spokeswoman for the Department of State, which oversees elections, said the agency's lawyers were examining whether Democrats are legally allowed to pick a new candidate.

The head of the state Democrats said he expects his party to take some sort of action in the coming days.



"If he's not the candidate, we need to find somebody, even if it's for a write-in," said Marcel Groen, the party chairman. "That said, it's certainly preferable to have someone on the ballot."

The race will not affect partisan control of the state House, where Republicans hold a 121-82 majority.

---

This story has been corrected to say bills showed a total usage over 11 months of about 3,000 gallons, not 95 gallons, which is the equivalent of less than two flushes a day, not two per month.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Town of Reduction, population 60, up for sale in Pennsylvania

yahoo.com



By David DeKok

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Reuters) - Got \$1.5 million to spare? If so, tiny Reduction, a one-time company town built to house workers at a long-vanished garbage-processing plant in western Pennsylvania, could be yours for the asking.

The aptly named town is home to 60 residents, down from 400 in its heyday. They live in 19 tidy brick houses, paying the Stawovy family, proprietors of the unincorporated village for the past 70 years. The asking price includes a one-room schoolhouse that was long ago converted into a duplex residence.

The plant, built by American Reduction Co on a wide bend of the Youghiogheny River, shut down in 1936 after processing waste from the city of Pittsburgh since the early 20th century.

Workers would render animal carcasses, and separate metal from household waste for resale.

"This was the original recycling plant," said David Stawovy, 67, who owns Reduction with his three siblings.

In 1948, David's father, John, owned an adjoining farm and was thinking about buying one of the larger homes in Reduction for his growing family. At one time, he would have had 28 from which to choose.

"My mother and dad wanted their own place," David Stawovy said, "and the man said: 'Why don't you buy them all?'"

The senior Stawovy ended up doing just that, paying \$10,000 for the place, lock, stock and barrel. It was a decision he never regretted, or at least never admitted regretting, his son said.

"He never complained. He made a living on it," said the younger Stawovy.

All that is left of the processing plant is the foundation, Stawovy said. Once the town dump contained a treasure trove of collectible bottles, but it was wiped clean years ago.

Stawovy said his advancing age and the nursing home care his parents needed before their recent deaths led the family to put Reduction up for sale. He needs to sell so his siblings can cash out their shares of the inheritance.

"We'd like to travel," he said. "We don't need the aggravation."

(Writing by Frank McGurty; Editing by Peter Cooney)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## No injuries reported in train versus horse and buggy crash

abc27.com



WHTM StaffPublished: March 10, 2017, 10:09 pm

PARADISE, Pa. (WHTM) – Emergency crews responded Friday night to a crash involving a train and a horse and buggy in

Lancaster County.

The incident was reported around 9:20 p.m. in the area of Rail Road Avenue and Route 30.

According to a Lancaster County 911 dispatcher, there were no injuries.

The horse was reportedly loose in the area.

© 1998 - 2017 abc27.com | Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc. | All rights reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## TV contestants spend year in Scottish wilderness unaware their show had been taken off the air - NME

nme.com

Contestants on the Channel 4 show ***Eden*** continued to live in the Scottish wilderness for months despite the show being taken off the air in July 2016.

*Eden* followed 23 people who were tasked with building a new society from scratch in “a remote Scottish location” – located on the estate of the Ardnamurchan peninsula in the west Highlands – which attempted to show viewers “what they would do differently if they were to start again, drawing attention to some of the facets of 21st century living that we could all do without.”

The show originally set out showcasing the events of each month on the island with every new episode, with the experiment set to last for a year. But, after the opening three months of the campaign aired in July 2016 (covering March, April and May), Channel 4 decided to take it off the air after the show suffered from poor viewing figures, with a drop from 1.7 million to 800,000 viewers recorded.

Despite this development – and the fact that a reported 13 of the 23 contestants dropped out of the show early – those who remained on the island continued to live and commit to living out the *Eden* idea, presumably believing that their exploits were still being recorded for television. However, the remaining participants – who finished filming this week – were not aware that the show had not been broadcast since August 2016.

Channel 4 have since issued a statement to clarify that the contestants’ remaining time on the island will be condensed into a special that’ll air later this year. “The appeal of *Eden* is that it was a real experiment and when filming began we had no idea what the results would be and how those taking part would react to being isolated for months in a remote part of the British Isles,” the statement read. “That’s why we did it and the story of their time, including the highs and the lows, will be shown later this year.”

In other Channel 4 news , the broadcaster this week revealed the unlikely hosts of the new edition of *The Great British Bake-Off*.

©1996-2017 Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.

All rights reserved NME is part of the Time Inc. (UK) Ltd Entertainment Network

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Two sisters, one house, and a mystery - The Boston Globe

bostonglobe.com



The home on Clinton Road in Brookline where two elderly sisters, Lynda and Sheryl Waldman, lived. The house, in one of the

town's most prosperous neighborhoods, is now condemned.

**By Patricia Wen** , Globe Staff March 04, 2017

BROOKLINE — Sheryl Hope Waldman grew up in a big and bustling house here in the 1950s, an attractive, cheerful girl with many friends. After attending Brookline High School and the University of Wisconsin, she returned to her childhood home to live with her older sister Lynda.

Then, over the years, Sheryl Waldman faded from view until she vanished. And no one seemed to notice.

For four decades, she shared a highly reclusive life with Lynda, six years her elder, inside their 4,000-square-foot home, a place where a warm, extended Jewish family once thrived, then bitterly fell apart.

Over the years, some people witnessed flickers of Sheryl's outgoing personality, but that soon subsided into the past — and so, too, her name. For reasons that are unclear, she began calling herself Hope Wheaton.

The sisters' once-grand house slowly fell into disrepair; the shuttered windows, collapsed porches, and broken gutters gave it an abandoned look. By last year, out of general concern, people began to call local police, health inspectors, and the state's elder protective services agency. Each time, Lynda, standing in the doorway, insisted: We're fine, please go away.

And these authorities did, never once crossing the threshold into the house, exhibiting a respectful deference that made them miss something beyond their darkest imagining: that Sheryl Waldman was long ago dead.

On a cold evening last December, a cousin who may have been the first outsider in decades to enter the house found the younger sister's badly withered corpse under a kitchen table.

### How could anyone have known?

The sisters, who craved privacy above all else, are now the subject of public soul-searching in a town that prides itself on progressive government and neighborly compassion: Could it be that easy for someone in their midst to disappear and die without anyone knowing?

Is this an isolated tragedy, or a reminder about the vulnerability of those who lead hidden lives?

And another question in this haunting case cannot yet be ruled out: Could this death have been a crime? Or the result of frightful neglect?

The cause of Sheryl Waldman's death is still pending autopsy results, and forensic testing is complicated by the condition of the body; officials estimate she may have died more than a year ago, before reaching her 68th birthday. Police say there are no obvious signs of foul play.

Get Fast Forward in your inbox:

Forget yesterday's news. Get what you need today in this early-morning email.

Thank you for signing up! Sign up for more newsletters here

Local authorities have not pressed any charges against Lynda Waldman, 74, or restricted her freedom in any way, though the house, also heavily cluttered inside with papers, boxes, and old clothing, has been condemned. They have also declined to say whether they have asked for a psychiatric evaluation of the older sister.

She has reportedly told authorities, in vague terms, that her sister died of natural causes and that she was at a loss about what to do with her body.

Meanwhile, Brookline police and the state agency that oversees elder protective services — both of which made several visits to the Clinton Road house in the past year — are in the process of self-examination, asking why they did not sooner discover this woman's death.

One woman from the neighborhood has wondered whether the sisters' veneer of past affluence — their home was once one of the most distinguished on the street — led to a degree of deference, which worked to keep their lives, and perhaps their troubles, at a remove.

This neighbor said that out of concern for their well-being, she had checked town records that showed the sisters' home at 122 Clinton Road, assessed at \$1.2 million, is owned by a trust — Timothy Realty Trust, which has two Boston lawyers listed as trustees. Because of this, she figured these hermetic sisters had someone, at least, watching over them. This information caused her to keep a distance.

"We tried to be respectful," said the neighbor, who asked to remain anonymous to avoid getting pulled into this case. "When I saw the trust records, I figured someone was involved in their lives. Somebody is taking care of them."

The Waldman and Carver families at a 1959 bar mitzvah ceremony in Brookline for John Carver. Front row from left: Sheryl Waldman, John Carver, Jacquelyn Carver, Lillian Carver, and Joseph Carver. Back row from left: Jack Waldman, Toby Waldman, Martha Waldman, Thomas Carver, and Lynda Waldman.

handout

## Happy early years

During the 1950s, the three-story brick colonial on Clinton Road stood out for its elegance and for something else: Two young families — the Waldmans and the Carvers — opted to inhabit the place as one big household with six children between them. In that place and time especially, it was an extraordinary choice.





*The Waldman and Carver families at a 1959 bar mitzvah ceremony in Brookline for John Carver. Front row from left: Sheryl Waldman, John Carver, Jacqueline Carver, Lillian Carver, and Joseph Carver. Back row from left: Jack Waldman, Toby Waldman, Martha Waldman, Thomas Carver, and Lynda Waldman.*

In 1937, Martha Rosnosky and her sister Lillian had married two law school classmates who were friends and business partners — Martha wedded Jacob Waldman; Lillian, Joseph Carver.

As they settled into married life, they all lived initially in Roxbury, though it's unclear whether they shared a home then. In 1949, around the time each had a third child, the two families bought the seven-bedroom Brookline house, a few blocks south of Beacon Street between Washington Square and Cleveland Circle, for \$35,000, records show.

The men ran a South Shore graphic arts company called Waldoroth, which made labels and decals, as well as a money-lending business and other enterprises. Their personal and business interests were so intertwined that the Waldmans and Carvers

shared a common checking account for household expenses.

The Waldmans' three daughters were named Toby, Lynda, and Sheryl, while the Carvers had two sons, Thomas and John, and a daughter, Jacquelyn; all six of the children were relatively close in age.

"The only odd thing you could say about them had to do with this unusual family arrangement," said Betsy Sanders, one of Sheryl's close middle school friends. "But other than that, it was like they were one big family. It was like all the kids belonged to everybody."

Friends of the family recall a large, unpretentious, often messy home where dogs and other pets were beloved. The Waldmans and Carvers were among the first on the street to get a color TV, and they shared a summer home in Hull. Classmates from the nearby John D. Runkle elementary and middle school, only two blocks from their house, were always welcome to drop by.

Many of them recalled Lillian Carver doing most of the cooking and driving, while Martha Waldman, known for her sense of style, attended to the house in other ways.

"There wasn't a time they didn't insist that I stay for supper," Sanders said.

The two families celebrated Passover and the High Holy Days together, and the subsequent weddings of the two Carver sons. The daughters in both families apparently never married.

Family friends recalled the younger Waldman daughters, Lynda and Sheryl, as relatively tall and slender brunettes, with Lynda being the more quiet, studious one. According to her 1959 Brookline High senior yearbook entry, Lynda's activities included working on the school newspaper and yearbook.

These friends recall Sheryl as less bookish, but more agreeable and cheerful. Sanders said that, even though she lost touch with Sheryl in their late teens, she fully expected her childhood friend would graduate from the University of Wisconsin, which she attended after high school, and then, like many of her peers, marry and have a family of her own.

While they all came of age during the feminist era of the 1960s and '70s, Sanders said she viewed Sheryl as a sweet, traditional girl who loved family life.

"She went with the flow," she said.



Lynda Waldman (left) at her cousin's 1966 wedding. Sheryl Waldman (right, seated) at the same wedding.  
handout

### **Infighting over finances**

Beneath the surface, however, there was trouble in the Waldman-Carver household.

In the mid-1960s, when Lynda and Sheryl were in their late teens and early 20s, the Waldoroth company struggled to pay its bills, and was soon hounded by creditors.

The fathers each filed for personal bankruptcy while establishing joint family trusts, apparently designed to protect personal property, including the Brookline and Hull homes, from being seized, court records show.

In the years to come, the eldest children from both families — Toby Waldman and Thomas Carver, both just out of college — began to play a bigger role running Waldoroth, eventually becoming the heads of the company and trustees of the family trusts. They would eventually take a dim view of Jacob Waldman's role at Waldoroth, where he still retained an executive title of some kind, asserting he was drawing too much money — and perks — from the company.

By this time, the relationship between Jacob Waldman and Joseph Carver was fraying, too, and discussions began about separating their financial interests.

Things had also turned darker at home. Martha Waldman was dying of colon cancer, her painful decline coming around the time Lynda graduated from the University of Chicago and was about to start an advanced degree in library science at the University of Wisconsin, and when Sheryl Waldman was in the midst of her studies in Wisconsin. The two sisters came back to help care for their mother, according to some people who knew the family well.

Martha died in 1969, at age 60. After that, Lynda and Sheryl tried to resume their schooling, but soon returned to Massachusetts — and took up residence in the Clinton Road house that now had many spare bedrooms.

The members of the Carver family and Toby Waldman were moving into new homes, in downtown Boston or nearby suburbs. And bitter infighting had erupted among the families over money, with Jacob complaining about betrayed trust, especially when Toby repeatedly allied herself with the Carver side.

During the decade after Martha Waldman's death, "the relations between Jack [Jacob] and the rest of the members of the family deteriorated," said one court filing.

By 1980, Joseph Carver filed legal action to separate the Waldman and Carver assets. And things only got worse from there.

Toby Waldman and Thomas Carver, who were still running Waldoroth, terminated Jacob Waldman's employment in 1980, provoking him to sue his eldest daughter in 1982 for breach of an "oral" agreement that he could work at Waldoroth as long as he wanted.

In the case, *Waldman v. Waldman*, Toby defended her actions against her father by saying in part, "Waldoroth is not financially able to pay the salary and fringe benefits claimed by Jack."

Around this time, the father threw his support behind Lynda and Sheryl, suggesting in court documents that he needed to protect his two younger daughters from Toby's greed. He wrote that Lynda and Sheryl have been "defrauded" and said the legal ordeal has been particularly hard on his middle daughter, Lynda, whom he said has been "destroyed by this family."

"She is the only one that cared about each member of the family," he wrote.

The Globe's repeated attempts to reach Toby Waldman, who has moved to Florida, were unsuccessful. She did not respond to messages left at the phone number under her name.

Lynda and Sheryl, too, had begun to worry that they could be frozen out of their share of the family's money and property. They hired their own lawyers and grew to distrust almost everyone — including, at times, their own lawyers, records show.

It was also at about this time that some of the more questionable aspects of Jacob Waldman's business activities surfaced, as he fought to regain his financial footing.

In 1983, he had sued two businessmen involved in running controversial strip clubs in Boston's Combat Zone, Christie Venios and Aristides Poravas, saying they owed him tens of thousands of dollars in consulting fees. They, however, asserted they had nothing more than a loan arrangement with Waldman and that all the money had been repaid.

Jacob would not live long enough to see the end of the case, which languished for years in the Suffolk County civil session.

As for the family's legal battles, the Waldmans and Carvers ultimately worked out a complex settlement, but only after a judge in the summer of 1983 threatened to launch the sure-to-be-ugly trial, just to bring an end to the ordeal.

"When the process of law has deteriorated so badly that the parties are filing pleadings at practically every stage of the litigation in order to prevent discovery, to harass each other and in the final analysis simply to delay . . . then it's time this practice stopped," said Plymouth Probate and Family Court Judge George Asack.

Lynda Waldman in 2001.  
handout

## **A home of their own**

The hard-won settlement provided that Lynda and Sheryl Waldman received the benefit of the Clinton Road property, among other assets, with the house placed under the nominal control of the





*Lynda Waldman in 2001.*

Timothy Realty Trust.

Even though Jacob Waldman initially agreed to the settlement, he later sought to undo it, but was unsuccessful. He felt embittered and later sought to cut Toby out of his will, according to some court records.

It is unclear just how close the two sisters remained with their father in the years after the settlement.

Court records suggest they looked after him when he was in his mid-70s and in poor

health. But some people who knew the family well also wondered whether Sheryl Waldman's decision in her 40s to dispense with the father's surname and go by Hope Wheaton was born of alienation from him or the family. Lynda also in later years took on Wheaton as her last name; it is unclear why they chose that surname. Both had their names on their driver's licenses changed to Wheaton.

In 1986, Jacob Waldman died, and the death certificate lists the cause of death as metastatic prostate cancer. That same year, within months of each other, Joseph and Lillian Carver also died.

Jacob Waldman's death would initiate another Waldman family dispute over money, though court records suggest the father's assets at this point were significantly diminished. When Toby sought to be named the executor of his estate, alleging that her two younger sisters had misappropriated assets of their father during his final years, Lynda and Sheryl produced a copy of what they said was their father's updated will, showing that he had cut Toby out of it. Toby demanded to see the original, which the sisters apparently never produced.

This triggered another lengthy court case, one that Lynda described as bringing her unbearable emotional pain.

"My very being is wasting away from chronic anguish willfully inflicted," she wrote in one court filing.

A lawyer who worked with both of them said the two sisters became "very co-dependent," with Lynda taking on the dominant "big sister" role in guiding legal strategy and writing detailed memos, and the younger sister, whom the lawyer knew as Hope, being more personally engaging but deferential to her older sister.

This lawyer, who asked not to be named to avoid re-entanglement with the family, said she always wondered why Hope didn't try to start her own life. But she also noticed Hope was fond of her older sister, laughing at her jokes and frequently sharing cigarettes with her.

"They seemed to really love each other," this lawyer said. "They were best friends."

Lynda and Sheryl eventually prevailed in court against their older sister, but all of the legal cases took a toll. They relied even more exclusively on each other in the years to come, and retreated into a quiet life centered in the house that represented the best of their childhood.

## Retreating from the world

In the years that followed, much of the sisters' day-to-day activity is unknown, as they spent it behind shuttered windows, though, after dark, neighbors sometimes saw the two women, their thin frames often in oversized clothing, walking to nearby stores. They seemed to have given up driving, and their garage for years housed an old car with long-expired license plates.

Some members of the extended Waldman family who live in Massachusetts were sporadically in touch with them, while the Carver children involved in the acrimonious legal battles stayed away from Lynda and Sheryl, and declined to comment when contacted by the Globe.

When reached by telephone, the oldest Carver son, Thomas, who lives in a suburb outside Boston, said he has not been involved in the lives of Lynda and Sheryl for more than three decades.

"It's behind me," he said, then declined further comment.

Neighbors observed the sisters having occasional interaction with workers — cab drivers, grocery delivery drivers, or leaf-removal contractors, though they rarely spoke to them. The layout of this exclusive residential area, with many houses set back from the street, wasn't conducive to random neighborly interactions.

And even when neighbors now and then saw the sisters raking leaves on their large front lawn, the pair usually had their backs turned and avoided the eyes of passersby.

Of the two, it was Sheryl, the younger one, who more often had contact with the public.

A cab driver recalled sometimes taking her on errands, during which she was reasonably talkative, often worrying that her older sister might be upset that she was spending too much.

He also said she mentioned she had some ongoing health issues, though she was not specific.

She always insisted he leave heavy grocery bags outside the back door, the cab driver said, never once allowing him inside. She also insisted on being picked up just outside the back door, which was at the top of the lengthy driveway, minimizing her exposure to outsiders.

Harriet Allen, 91, a retired psychologist who lived next door on Clinton Road for decades, appears to be the only neighbor to have had an ongoing connection with the sisters, particularly the younger one, whom she first knew as Sheryl and later as Hope.

Allen said Hope would sometimes call her and ask if she might join her on a shopping trip to Coolidge Corner or Chestnut Hill, though those calls — and sightings of Hope — stopped about a year and a half ago. Previously, the two would go out, sometimes on a near monthly basis, and Hope would indulge in small purchases of lottery tickets, cupcakes, and lipstick.

She said Hope told her the sisters worked from home in computer-related jobs. According to town records, Lynda listed herself as a "consultant" and the younger sister was listed as "management."

Allen said she had very limited contact with Lynda, who sometimes appeared on the driveway with messy gray hair and unkempt clothes. She said she simply thought of her as "peculiar" but not incapable of caring for herself.

As a therapist who had treated a range of patients, Allen said her more extensive interactions with Hope never led her to believe she suffered from any mental disorder, but had come to adopt a

reclusive life.

Allen recalled often defending, to her family members, the sisters' right to their eccentric ways. She chided one of her sons when he described the two sisters as "crazy," and shook her head when he once said, as police came and went last year, "I bet one day they'll find a body at the bottom of the mess!"

As the sisters increasingly retreated from view, the house and its surroundings fell into further disrepair, dangerously so when a large tree in their yard looked like it might topple over.

The sisters — or their trustees — did, however, keep up with property tax payments, though they have failed in the past year to pay their bill and currently owe about \$20,000.

Court records show the trustees were two lawyers, John Christoforo and Dennis Duggan Jr., who used to work at Hale and Dorr, which is now WilmerHale.

Records show that Christoforo has since died, and Duggan has left the law firm. Duggan, who is president of Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, declined to respond to repeated phone messages the Globe left at work and at his Milton home, asking about his role with the sisters.

The trust, records show, appears to be the type that is largely run by the beneficiaries.

Town health officials apparently contacted Duggan at some point in their investigation.

"Spoke with Dennis Duggan Jr. He wrote trust b/c he was only attorney that the Wheaton sisters would speak to. Described them as reclusive/insular/anti-social," said the department's note, obtained through public records requests.

Much of what drew neighbors' attention to the two sisters was the deterioration of the house, with its peeling paint and rotting wood. The next-door neighbor, Allen, remembers one time within the last two years, however, when she dropped off a copy of Time magazine through the back door, and something else repelled her.

"I smelled an odor," she recalled. "Oh my God, the smell was terrible."



*Harriet Allen lives next door to the home where the two elderly sisters lived. This is the kitchen window where she could see them, now and then.*

Harriet Allen lives next door to the home where the two elderly sisters lived. This is the kitchen window where she could see them, now and then.

Suzanne Kreiter/Globe staff

### **Inquiries but no answers**

Last summer, Brookline police received three calls to check on the well-being of the occupants of 122 Clinton Rd.

In each case, the officers never stepped inside the front door — and in one case, they never spoke to anyone at the house before leaving, records show.



The first call, on June 8, came from a concerned neighbor who is also a real estate agent. An officer that day walked around the house on foot, knocked on the doors, and noted the severe decay of the premises. He talked to neighbors who said two reclusive sisters lived there.

According to an internal affairs report, the officer left without successfully reaching anyone because he “did not believe he had enough reason to justify forcing entry into the home.”

Two weeks later, a National Grid worker asked police to check on the occupants after being unable to get a response at the door. When an officer this time was able to get a woman — he described her as “disheveled and in her mid-sixties” — to come to the door, she was insistent “that everything was OK,” said the report.

The third visit came on July 13 when a case worker for a social service agency called police, saying she had been unable in two previous attempts to follow up on a complaint that a woman named Hope Wheaton may suffer from “self-neglect.”

This case worker was employed by Springwell, a private agency hired by the state to oversee elder protective services cases. Such cases are typically opened when someone complains — and there is a basis to believe — an older person may be at risk for harm due to abuse or neglect.

Springwell and state social service officials have declined to say who called in the complaint, citing confidentiality laws.

Firefighters and ambulance workers joined police and the case worker in responding to this call. Ultimately, firefighters got a woman to answer the back door, and the case worker talked with her. After this interaction, the case worker told officers that everything was “all set” and they all left.

The case worker, Springwell, and state authorities have declined to answer questions from the Globe about what assurances they received that Hope Wheaton was fine. They declined to say how the woman at the door identified herself, and whether they asked to speak to the second occupant of the house.

Meanwhile, the town’s health department was becoming even more alarmed by the condition of the house.

After a neighbor’s complaint, health officials inspected the exterior premises in mid-June and issued an order to Timothy Realty Trust that it had 30 days — until mid-July — to correct “numerous openings to the exterior of the structure,” which were allowing “the elements and wildlife access to the interior of the dwelling.”

Nothing happened, and a follow-up order by the agency was also ignored. A health department staffer also said a neighbor had reported that he saw someone, whom he believed was a social worker, visit “the sisters on a weekly basis to remove trash, deliver food, and provide care.”

The home on Clinton Road as viewed from the upstairs window of the home next door belonging to Harriet Allen.

Suzanne Kreiter/Globe staff

## **A visit and a discovery**

On a cold winter weekday almost three months ago, Lynda Waldman was in a state of high distress.



*The home on Clinton Road as viewed from the upstairs window of the home next door belonging to Harriet Allen.*

According to those familiar with the investigation, Lynda had called a cousin to say she needed a place to stay because there was no running water, and her water pipes may have frozen. Then another cousin, a social worker by training, came to pick her up.

When she got there, she did what no one had apparently done for several decades, perhaps because Lynda may have already gotten into the waiting car: This cousin entered the house.

There, underneath a kitchen table, was the badly decomposed body of someone she had

known since childhood — the cousin she first knew as Sheryl Waldman.

She called police, who rushed to the scene and logged a “sudden death” report. It was clear, however, that the younger sister’s death was not a recent event.

“When officers responded it was obvious that Hope had been deceased for a lengthy time,” said a police department report. According to the death certificate, Sheryl Waldman’s body was cremated.

In the weeks that followed, Lynda Waldman remained very much in charge of the Clinton Road home. While staying with a cousin, then later at a hotel outside of Boston, she began calling contractors about needed repairs to the decrepit house. She did not seem particularly bothered by the public discovery of her sister’s long-dead body, according to those close to the investigation.

A spokesman for the Norfolk district attorney’s office said the investigation into the death remains open, and he declined to comment on whether Lynda Waldman could face any charges involving her failure to report the body.

Neighbors say they find it chilling that Lynda might someday return to the home now publicly associated with a corpse. But town officials say that unless she is deemed legally incapable of living on her own or faces serious criminal charges, she is entitled to resume living in her home once it is considered safe for human habitation.

Some town authorities say it’s not easy to intervene in the lives of vulnerable people who want to be left alone, as they can assert formidable legal challenges to unwanted attention.

“How do you break through to people who want to be isolated?” said Ruthann Dobek, director of the Brookline Council on Aging.

The pending death certificate for Hope Wheaton (formerly known as Sheryl Waldman).  
Patricia Wen/Globe Staff

### **‘I’m not a lunatic’**

A month after Lynda Waldman moved out of her home, a Globe reporter went to the hotel where she was staying. She emerged from her room, holding a walker and wearing a large coat.



The pending death certificate for Hope Wheaton (formerly known as Sheryl Waldman).

When asked about her sister’s death, Lynda calmly asked the reporter to go away and to not ask any questions.

With her shoulder-length gray hair seemingly newly washed, she spoke in a clear, articulate voice, saying she had much to do. She said problems with the house should have been resolved long ago, and she is now trying to address them.

The reporter then asked: What happened to Hope?

The older sister shook her head as she struggled to balance herself on the walker. She again told the reporter to leave her alone.

“I’m not a lunatic,” she said with a dismissive wave of the hand. “It’s a tragedy.”



The Clinton Road home reflected in a puddle on the sidewalk.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## UFO enthusiast vanishes without trace - leaving room of ‘coded writings’

metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 5 Apr 2017 3:08 pm

Credit: Guilherme Kaminski dos Santos/Youtube



A UFO fan has mysteriously vanished in Brazil – leaving behind a locked room covered in coded writings and strange pictures of extraterrestrials.

Naturally, the internet is convinced that Bruno Borges has been abducted by aliens – or nobbled by the Men in Black – after he vanished without telling his family.

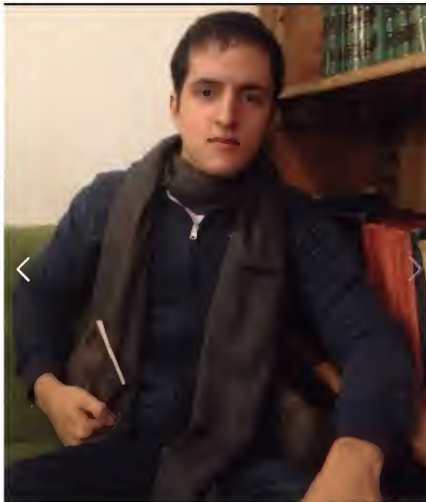
A video taken inside Borges’ room shows notebooks covered in cryptic writings – and symbols seemingly associated with the occult, such as pentagrams.

Relatives said that he could not reveal what he was working on but claimed that he was writing a series of books which would ‘change humanity in a good way.’



Alien enthusiast Bruno Borges Credit: Brono Borges via Facebook

Father Athors Borges said that the family had not yet received concrete information about what has happened.



Alien enthusiast Bruno Borges Credit: Brono Borges via Facebook

He said, ‘We’ve tried to call him on his cell phone, but it’s off.

‘He’s never gone before. He did not take anything and the last time we saw him he was leaving home.’

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

**CTV News Channel: 'Balloonatic' to be sentenced**

A man who strapped 120 balloons to a lawn chair and soared above the Calgary Stampede as a publicity stunt will be sentenced in court.

CALGARY -- A man who strapped more than 100 helium balloons to a lawn chair and soared above the Calgary Stampede grounds apologized Friday for the danger he caused, but said he doesn't regret his actions.

"I have the greatest story to tell for the rest of my life," said Daniel Boria, 27, when asked outside his sentencing hearing if it was worth it.

"I understood the risks but, if you do anything, you're going to get in trouble. If you don't do anything, you won't be in trouble but you won't get anywhere either."

**Photos**

*Calgary Stampede Balloon stunt*

A person is seen in a lawn chair, strapped to dozens of helium balloons, in this photo snapped by Tom Warne and posted on Twitter.

Boria pleaded guilty in December to dangerous operation of an aircraft. Floating into Calgary airspace in July 2015 was part of a publicity stunt for his cleaning company and earned him the nickname "balloonatic."

Boria tied industrial-sized balloons to a lawn chair as part of a plan to parachute over the Stampede chuckwagon races, but high winds forced him to jump early, before he reached the track.

"The stunt was unconscionably stupid," said Judge Bruce Fraser at the sentencing hearing Friday. "There was nothing fantastic, fun or exhilarating about it as the offender was quoted describing it. It was dumb and dangerous."

Fraser said the lawn chair travelled into the flight paths of incoming and outgoing commercial airplanes. It was spotted by an incoming plane and the air traffic control tower.

"It is unknown what height he achieved, but there is an estimate of some 14,000 feet," said Fraser. "At some point a commercial aircraft, the offender called it a 747, passed underneath him."

He said the stunt could have led to disaster.

"If he was headed into an oncoming aircraft, he could not have diverted away from it nor could the aircraft have avoided him. A collision could have disabled the aircraft in a number of ways causing it to fall and crash," said Fraser.

"Not only would there have been a loss of lives of those people on the aircraft, the crash would have been in a densely populated metropolis, risking the lives of those on the ground."

Fraser fined him \$5,000, with an additional \$1,500 tacked on as a victim impact fee. Boria was also required to donate \$20,000 to a local veterans foodbank.

"I have remorse. I understand we did cause a little bit of danger but at the same time when you text and drive, they don't charge you as if you were to hit a whole bus of kids," he said outside court.

"I really do apologize for wasting everybody's time."

Boria said he originally wanted a plane to drop him off so he could jump into the Stampede grounds but all pilots he contacted in Canada, the United States and Mexico refused. He said that's when he came up with the idea of using the balloons and the lawn chair.

His lawyer, Alain Hepner, said his client would have likely received a harsher sentence if he hadn't admitted to his crime.

"I think the resolution that was arrived at between Crown and I on behalf of Dan was most beneficial."

Boria, who couldn't stop smiling when being interviewed, said he isn't embarrassed.

"It's pretty hard to take it seriously when you guys are asking me these questions based on me flying a lawn chair lifted by helium balloons."

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Underwater cyclist on stationary bike travels record 2,800 feet in one breath

upi.com

By Daniel Uria | Jan. 20, 2017 at 4:44 PM



An Italian underwater cyclist broke his own Guinness World Record by cycling 2,800 feet on a stationary bike in one breath. Homar Leuci completed the feat on Italy's Lo Show Dei Record weekly video series where he set the previous world record of 2,516 feet 4 inches (767 meters) four years earlier. Screen capture/Guinness World Records/YouTube

Jan. 20 (UPI) -- An underwater cyclist set a new world record by traveling more than 2,800 feet on a stationary bike in one

breath.

Italian Homar Leuci set the record for "Farthest simulated distance static cycling underwater (apnoea)" by traveling 2,805 feet 1 inch (855 meters) after having only taken one single breath.

He climbed into a tank filled with water and took one long breath before submerging himself to pedal a stationary bike for about four minutes to claim the record.

Leuci completed the feat on Italy's Lo Show Dei Record weekly video series where he set the previous world record of 2,516 feet 4 inches (767 meters) four years earlier.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 'Unicorns' are alive and well in Galloway

scotsman.com

KNOCKENGORROCH World Ceilidh Music Festival organisers are aiming to break the international record for the highest number of unicorns in one place later this year.

The attempt, which has been registered with and accredited by the Guinness Book of Records, will see festival-goers wearing unicorn horns and counted by an official adjudicator.



*Festival-goers will be encouraged to wear unicorn horns at the Knockengoroch World Ceilidh Music Festival. Picture: Contributed*

2017 will see the festival's 20th year. It will take place from 25 to 28 May, featuring music and arts from across the globe in its stunning location in the Galloway hills of South West Scotland.

Festival organiser and landowner Liz Holmes said: "We wanted to do something exciting, fun and different to celebrate our 20th year.

"The unicorn is an ancient and fascinating mythical creature, depicted and worshipped in many countries across the world. Its a truly multi-cultural symbol for us to celebrate, reflecting our international taste in music!"

The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland. Portrayed on the Scottish Royal Coat of Arms in chains, it is said to govern through harmony and peace.



*Festival-goers will be encouraged to wear unicorn horns at the Knockengoroch World Ceilidh Music Festival. Picture: Contributed*

The four day family-friendly festival programme includes music from Scotland and across the world, with a strong emphasis on traditional and roots music.

Children's workshops will join adult activities and festival artwork based around the legendary beast.

The full line-up and advance tickets are available from the Knockengoroch website.



*Festival-goers will be encouraged to wear unicorn horns at the Knockengoroch World Ceilidh Music Festival. Picture: Contributed*

© Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.



## Up to 90% of people will happily torture others if told to do so, study finds

metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.uk Wednesday 15 Mar 2017 11:03 am



picture; Getty – Credit: Myles Goode

In a rerun of one of the notorious experiments in history, researchers have found that up to 90% of us will torture others until they're screaming in agony – if we're told to do so.

Polish researchers found that almost all of their volunteers kept pressing a button in the belief that it would cause terrible pain – continuing right up to the highest level.

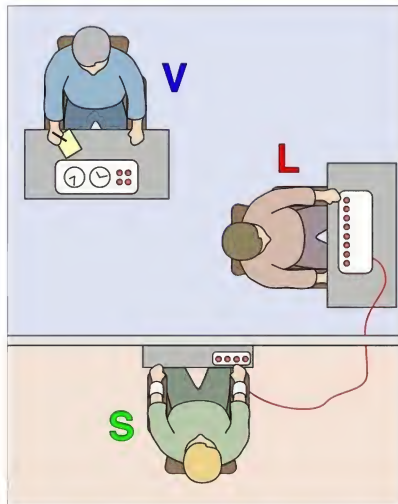
All that was required was for the 'doctors' in the experiment to keep saying, 'The experiment requires that you continue'

and 'You have no other choice, you must go on.'

Ninety per cent of the volunteers continued up to 'Level 10' – 450V.

The original 1961 'Milgram experiment' was formulated after Nazis such as Adolf Eichmann used the defence that they were 'only following orders'.

Co-author Dr Tomasz Grzyb, a social psychologist at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poland, said: 'Half a century after Milgram's original research into obedience to authority, a striking majority of subjects are still willing to electrocute a helpless individual.'



Milgram Experiment

### Milgram Experiment

'Upon learning about Milgram's experiments, a vast majority of people claim that "I would never behave in such a manner."

'Our study has, yet again, illustrated the tremendous power of the situation the subjects are confronted with and how easily they can agree to things which they find unpleasant.'

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

[Back to top](#)

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## US Diplomat Was Investigated for Spying as a Kid Because He Kept Writing Boeing Asking for Photos

Matt Novak

[gizmodo.com](http://gizmodo.com)

# PALEOFUTURE

### US Diplomat Was Investigated for Spying as a Kid Because He Kept Writing Boeing Asking for Photos

Thursday 11:00am

Filed to: robert f. dorr



Military historian and US diplomat Robert F. Dorr in a photo from October of 2003 (Photo by Jon Smythe)

By most standards, Robert F. Dorr lived the most all-American, patriotic life anyone possibly could. He served in the Air Force, he was a diplomat with the State Department from the 1960s to the 1980s, and he went on to be a successful author and TV pundit about military affairs. But as a teenager, Dorr was investigated by the FBI for potential espionage. His crime? He kept writing to Boeing asking for photos of their planes.

Dorr died in June from a brain tumor at the age of 76, and will be remembered for his writings on military history. But his newly released FBI file, obtained by Gizmodo through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, is actually quite humorous in retrospect, given his interests. Back in the 1950s, when he was still just a kid, the Pentagon and the FBI were concerned that he might be a spy.

When he was 14 years old, Dorr wrote multiple letters to companies like Boeing, asking for 8x10 glossy photos of their latest planes. His devotion was like that of a fan enamored with his favorite singer. But the FBI was alerted to this unusual activity and opened an investigation.

Letter sent by then-14-year-old Robert F. Door in 1953 to Boeing, requesting a photo of the company's latest plane (FBI through FOIA request)

In one of the pages from the FBI file you can see a 1953 letter from the teenage Dorr asking for photos of the KB-47, an experimental plane that was intended to refuel B-47s while in the air. But this made the authorities nervous.

The first page of the newly released file was a referral from a tipster at the Pentagon dated January 1954. It explains that someone from Washington, D.C. who goes by the name Robert F. Dorr keeps

writing to Boeing asking for photos of planes, information that they regarded as classified. Letters from the same address under the name F.B. Newman were reportedly coming to Boeing as well.

Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

The saddest part? The teenage boy was denied his glossy photos. According to the file, Boeing's images of the aircraft were considered classified at the time, and they couldn't be released. But at this point in 1954 the FBI still had no idea who this Dorr person was.

Could it be a secret Soviet spy sending hamfisted messages to Boeing openly asking for photos? No one knew.

Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

By January 13, 1954 the FBI had figured out that Dorr was just a kid and that his requests were "innocuous," as they described them. And the FBI had also determined that Newman was actually Dorr by looking at the similar misspellings of Wichita and the fact that the letters came from the same typewriter. It's unclear, however, why he was using a second name, F.B. Newman, to ask for photos.

But the investigation didn't end there. According to the FBI file, another investigation was opened in June of 1954 because Dorr was still asking for information from the Air Force about its bases. Dorr had written to Bergstrom Air Force base in Texas asking for photos of the F-84F turbojet bomber. So the Air Force even sent local agents to investigate the kid.

Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

Their conclusion? He was a "loyal American boy" who just wanted aerial photos of US Air Force bases because that kind of thing was his hobby.

Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

Yet again, the investigation didn't end there. Dorr's July 15, 1954 letter asking for photos of the the Navy's Vought F7U-3 Cutlass is also included in the file. It seems every branch of the military was on high alert about this schoolboy's curiosity.

In his letter about the F7U-3, Dorr even specified that the photos wouldn't be reproduced, but perhaps he should've explained that he was just a hobbyist—and a 15-year-old one at that.

Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

But the report on Dorr from September 1, 1954 is perhaps the funniest. The Air Force sent investigators to talk to his former teacher. The teacher called Dorr a "loyal and an average American boy" but also said he was "lazy in school work."



Excerpt from the newly released FBI file of military historian Robert F. Dorr, opened when he was just 14 years old (FBI through FOIA request)

Ouch.

The last page of the file is dated April 14, 1955 and concerns letters that Dorr wrote to the Air Force the previous February asking about the Northrop F-89D Scorpion Jet. The FBI file notes that the Air Force sent the teenager a letter in reply to say that they couldn't disclose any information about the F-89D because it was classified.

After that, it would appear that the military and the FBI realized that this kid wasn't a threat. You can read the entire 23-page file on Robert F. Dorr, which I've uploaded to Scribd.

FBI File of Robert F. Dorr, military historian by Matt Novak on Scribd

---

©2017 Gizmodo Media Group

**UW student accused of running naked inside Capitol**

madison.com

# WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

•  
SAMARA  
KALK  
DERBY

skalk@madison.com

**Samara Kalk Derby | Wisconsin State Journal**

A 22-year-old Madison man was tentatively charged by Capitol police this month for lewd and lascivious behavior after running around inside the Capitol building naked.

Capitol police obtained video evidence of Russell C. Doupe, 22, taking off his clothes in the first floor rotunda at about 1:30 p.m. Feb. 4 and running around the balustrade area "completely naked" and "exposing his genitals."

A criminal complaint said that in the video a little girl could be heard "saying something to the effect of 'What's that?' in a questioning tone of voice."

The man who took the video told police he was afraid Doupe was going to fall over the railing to the ground floor. He also said he was disturbed by Doupe's behavior.

By the time officers arrived Doupe had put his jeans back on and was attempting to put his shirt on. He was with a friend, Thomas Siwula. Both men smelled of intoxicants, the report said. Doupe apologized for being naked.

Siwula told police he was Doupe's best friend and said they had come to the Capitol to protest "the financial decisions of President (Donald) Trump."

Doupe is identified as a UW-Madison student on the school's website.

The report said the fine for the lewd and lascivious misdemeanor could be as much as \$10,000 and/or nine months in prison.

© Copyright 2017 Madison, 1901 Fish Hatchery Rd Madison, WI

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Fire causes extensive damage at mortuary near Chandler

Staff and wire reports

azcentral.com



Mortuary near Chandler

When crews arrived to extinguish a fire at a mortuary near Chandler on Jan. 8, 2016, it was already coming through the roof, according to authorities. (Photo: Brian Curry/Special for The Republic)

Authorities say there were no human remains inside a funeral home near Chandler when it caught fire and sustained heavy damage, but several already cremated bodies were affected.

An investigator for the Arizona Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers says no human remains were burned in the blaze late Sunday at Valley of

the Sun Mortuary.

But later Monday, Maricopa County sheriff's officials say several already cremated bodies were affected. They didn't immediately have an exact number, however.

Sheriff's officials say arson investigators are on the scene, but the fire doesn't appear to be suspicious.

More than 40 firefighters from Chandler, Gilbert and Sun Lakes crews battled the fire, which was reported about 10:30 p.m. at the mortuary, 10940 E. Chandler Heights Road, according to Jason White, Chandler Fire Department battalion chief.

When crews arrived, the blaze already was through the roof, White said. Crews fought the blaze from ladder trucks, White said.

Three-fourths of the funeral home's roof was burned.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## 'Vampire' killer gets new sentencing hearing in 1996 Eustis murders

Stories from Headlines Network

dailycommercial.com

By Millard Ives

# DAILY COMMERCIAL

TAVARES — A 37-year-old inmate sent to prison for life without parole on murder charges almost 20 years ago in the infamous

Vampire Clan murders in Eustis was brought back to the Lake County Jail on Monday.

Howard Scott Anderson is one of almost a dozen inmates sentenced by a Lake County jury to be eligible for a new sentencing hearing.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that juveniles sentenced to life without the possibility of parole were entitled to new sentencing hearings.

Anderson and clan leader Rod Ferrell, the latter who claimed to be a 500-year-old vampire, were 16 years old in 1996 when the two murdered the parents of one of their clan members in the couple's Eustis home.

Ferrell had confessed to beating Richard Wendorf and Naomi Ruth Queen with a tire iron

J. Edwin Mills, Anderson's defense lawyer for his new sentencing hearing, said he questions whether juveniles should get such stiff sentences, adding that he believes there is a lack of emotional development and maturity at that age.

"Bottom line, does a 16, 17, 18-year-old ... do they fully realize the consequences of their actions?" Mills said in an interview Tuesday.

A date for Anderson's new sentencing hearing has not been set, but a pre-hearing is slated for this month.

Anderson and Ferrell were sentenced in 1998.

Mike Graves, the public defender for the five-county Fifth Judicial Circuit, which includes Lake County, said it wouldn't be appropriate for him to comment on the case, since he represented Anderson during his trial. That's why Anderson was assigned a private attorney for the new hearing.

But Graves added he does agree with the high court's ruling.

"Children are constitutionally different from adults for purposes of sentencing," Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the 6-3 majority opinion in the case of Henry Montgomery, who was locked up as a juvenile in 1963 for killing a sheriff's deputy in Louisiana. Courts need to examine "special circumstances" in a juvenile's life, including mental illness and their upbringing, the court ruled.

Ferrell initially was given the death penalty, but the U.S. Supreme Court later reduced his sentence to life in prison due to his age at the time of the crime.

Anderson, fearing he would also get the death penalty, pleaded guilty rather than go to trial.

Jennifer Wendorf, the daughter of the victims, found her parents beaten to death on Nov. 25, 1996. Anderson and Ferrell apparently had entered the couple's home through the unlocked garage and Ferrell beat a sleeping Wendorf then Queen when she later found the two intruders inside the residence.

Richard Wendorf was found bearing burn marks in the shape of a V, which was said to be Ferrell's symbol.

Mills said there will be a lot of preparation for the new hearing, including talking with the defendant's family members and tests such as measuring Anderson's deficiencies and development.

"If he fully understood what he was getting involved with, we are probably sunk, but I don't think that is what we got here," Mills said.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Police puzzled why body hauled 1,000 miles in suitcase

12:04 EST, 9 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

**Woman arrested after she mysteriously hauled an elderly man's body 1,000 miles from New York to Arkansas in a SUITCASE and then dumped it in a rice field**

- Cops in two states are trying to figure out why a woman hauled an elderly man's body in a suitcase more than 1,000 miles from upstate New York to Arkansas
- The body was eventually then dumped in a rice field
- Virginia Colvin, 56, faces a preliminary charge of abuse of a corpse
- Police say the body found Sunday at a farm 50 miles northeast of Little Rock appears to be that of a man who died in Johnstown, New York
- The body has been sent to an Arkansas crime lab to be identified and to pinpoint how he died

By Associated Press



Virginia Colvin, 56, faces a preliminary charge of abuse of a corpse

Police in two states say they are trying to figure out why a woman hauled an elderly man's body in a suitcase more than 1,000 miles from upstate New York to Arkansas and then dumped it in a rice field.

Virginia Colvin, 56, faces a preliminary charge of abuse of a corpse.

Investigators say they are still seeking a motive.

Police say the body found Sunday at a farm 50 miles northeast of Little Rock appears to be that of a man who died in Johnstown,

New York.

The body has been sent to an Arkansas crime lab to be identified and to pinpoint how he died.

'At this point in time, we believe that he died of natural causes,' Johnstown Police Lt. Dave Gilbo told News 10 ABC in Albany, New York.

'We just can't determine why the body was transported from here to Arkansas.'

Arkansas State Police say Colvin was arrested in Arkansas on Wednesday night in connection with the case.

State police say she is being held in the Prairie County jail.

State police say a man who is jailed in Arkansas on an unrelated charge is also being questioned.

The man, Michael Stivers, is being held at the Lonoke County Jail on charges unrelated to the discovery of the body, and is being questioned by State Police.



Gilbo suggested the criminal investigation is focused on what happened after the man died and whether the man or the federal government were victims of fraud.

He told the TV station that there have been cases in Fulton County, New York of people trying to collect the Social Security checks of the deceased.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## More than 30 thought to be 'possessed by the devil' as disease attacks village

By Kara O'Neill 09:18, 8 MAR 2017 Updated 09:54, 8 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**The community believes doll with cross marked across face is responsible for the sickness - which has led many to believe they are haunted by evil spirits**



A community is in crisis after more than 30 of its villagers have been 'possessed by the devil' after discovering a voodoo doll.

Residents living in Santa Tomas, close to Waspan, in the south of Nicaragua, are said to be suffering from grisi siknis (translated into English as 'crazy sickness').

Grisi siknis is a culture-bound syndrome that most often affects communities in Central America.

*<img class="video-thumbnail" src="http://i2.mirror.co.uk/incoming/article9987117.ece/ALTERNATES/s1168v/POS*

The contagious syndrome often exhibits symptoms such as nausea, anxiety, dizziness, irrational anger and fear, as well as periods of 'rapid frenzy'.



People suffering with grisi siknis also have visions of spirits and demons.

Terrifyingly, each time a person is 'possessed', they name the next victim of the disease.

One woman who lives in the community, known as Marisella, has attempted to help her neighbours by creating homemade remedies to 'cure' the syndrome.

She creates medicines, which are poured across the back of the affected villager in the hope that it will ward off the evil spirits.

*More than 30 villagers have been struck down with the sickness*

After investigating the disease further, Marisella said she believes that she has found the cause - a small voodoo doll.

Speaking to Central America media, she said: "A doll with black ribbon and a cross marked on its face [has been found in a street].

"It suggests that it's affected by dark spells and bad influences. A type of bad spirit."

The villagers have now decided to burn the doll.



*The villagers have found a voodoo doll - which they believe is the cause of their problems*

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Man dies trying to eat giant doughnut at Voodoo Doughnuts

By Mike Moffitt

Updated 5:18 pm, Monday, April 3, 2017

seattlepi.com

A man who choked to death at a Voodoo Doughnuts shop in Denver was reportedly trying to wolf down a giant doughnut during a food-eating challenge.

Travis Malouff, 42, died Sunday while attempting to down a half-pound glazed doughnut. The cause of death was "asphyxia, due to obstruction of the airway," the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner said Monday morning.

Malouff was taking the shop's "Tex-Ass Challenge," which requires participants to consume the colossal doughnut — the equivalent of six regular doughnuts — within an 80-second time limit. Winners get a free meal and a button.

"It's tragic," Travis Malouff's father, Curtis Malouff, told NBC 9News. "It's a loss of life that shouldn't be."

The station said two people inside the shop at the time tried to help Malouff when they realized he was choking, but they couldn't perform the Heimlich maneuver.

A Connecticut college student also died Sunday in a food-eating contest. Caitlin Nelson, a 21-year-old Sacred Heart University student, was participating in a pancake-eating contest when she fell ill and began choking. She later was pronounced dead at a hospital.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## The weird and wonderful world of collectables out west

stuff.co.nz

**stuff** MAHVASH ALI

Last updated 13:02, February 22 2017



▶ 0:00

Have you checked out this antique shop in the west?

Ray is the owner of antique and collectables shop Just Plane Interesting located on Parrs Cross Rd in Henderson.

### How long have you owned Just Plane Interesting?

I have owned this shop for 20 years. Before this I owned gift shops in various places across Auckland. It was before the \$2 shops started opening. I have been in retail for 43 years.



*Mahvash Ali Ray says west Aucklanders are an imaginative people and it takes unique things to impress them.*

### Where do you get all the stuff for your shop?

Every piece tells a story. People ring me up everyday and bring stuff in everyday. I just did a quote for someone - those items were not suitable for our shop so I pointed them in the right direction.

### What is your criteria for selecting things for the store?

It's not so much the how old something is. It is more about the





*Mahvash Ali There is something for everyone at Just Plane Interesting, Ray says.*

uniqueness of it. I like bizarre and unusual things. You cannot exist with conventional antiques, especially in west Auckland. There are so many beautiful things to sell here and they encompass all eras, right up to modern times. I like to dazzle everyone with unusual items. I have so much stock that this shop and the one I have down the road are too small. There is stock at four different locations all waiting to come to the shop floor. There is just no room here.

### **Why is it important to have unconventional stuff in west Auckland?**

The market for just antiques is very limited. You have to be different. West Aucklanders are fired-up with imagination. There are pockets here, like Titirangi is famous for its artists and so on. There are lots of imaginative people out here who relish the unique stuff. It's not a conventional place.



*Mahvash Ali People are always coming to the shop with unique items, the proud owner says.*

### **Why did you pick Parrs Cross Rd for your shop?**

The backdrop is just beautiful.

### **What is the most expensive item you have sold in this shop?**

It was an unusual hand carved box and it sold for \$12,400. But price-range wise we have something for everybody. We have things that are \$1 - like some the plates from Crown Lynn place from the 1960s.

### **Tell us about the most special item in your shop at the moment.**

It is a grandfather clock on sale for \$3,750. It is about 250-300 years old, it's in perfect working condition - just flawless. One of my favourite items. It belonged to a lovely elderly gentleman, he was a west Auckland icon. He died recently and bequeathed some of the stuff he owned to hospice and I got this through them.



*Mahvash Ali Ray says his shop is his "first love".*





*Mahvash Ali Ray inspects a unique item in his shop.*

**Antiques and unique items are a bit of an acquired taste for most people. Do you manage to make a profit?**

We do have a revenue but the overheads are shocking. I reinvest the money into stock. Stock and overheads - these two things eat the profit up quite nicely. I work seven-days-a-week. The shop opens from 9am and closes at 5pm but I start earlier and go later according to my day. It depends on how many

quotes I have to do and where I have to go. I have business in Hastings and up to Thames. On average I work 15 hour days. We are looking at expanding and opening another shop outside Auckland.

\* Just Plane Interesting is located at 99 Parrs Cross Rd.

## **- Stuff**

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Wellington Botanic Gardens gets mysterious new resident

WELLINGTON BOTANIC GARDEN

This ancient Gondwana-era dinosaur - the Plesiosaur - has made an appearance in the duck pond in the Wellington Botanic Garden.

The Wellington Botanic Gardens just got a mysterious new resident.

It looks a lot like the fabled Loch Ness monster and has been turning heads since it first emerged from the pond late last month.

But don't call it Nessie.

This is no mythical beast, but a plesiosaur, an ancient marine reptile that lived in Gondwana land and swam the waters of New Zealand hundreds of millions of years ago.

### READ MORE:

\* [CIA files: UFOs, mind control, and strange lights above Kaikoura in 1978](#)

\* [Waddling with dinosaurs: Ancient New Zealand fossil connects penguins and dinosaurs](#)

\* [10 animals you didn't know existed](#)

This particular plesiosaur was brought to the Wellington Botanic Gardens as part of the upcoming Age of Dinosaurs exhibition.



**Jo Orange**  
@jo9ty

[Follow](#)

The ducks seem a little weary of the new intruder at the Wellington Botanic Gardens. [#LochNessMonster](#) [#Dinosaur](#) [#FoundNessy](#) [#WhyWellington](#)

5:47 PM - 19 Mar 2017

2

"Some people go by a few times," Botanic Garden visitor experience team manager Raydeen Cuffe said.

The appearance of the Loch Ness looking creature in the middle of the city can shake people out of their routine, she added.

"Get a chance to take in your environment when there is a change."

The duck pond's newest resident is not just stopping Wellingtonians.

"The ducks are a little standoffish but the pigeons will just go ahead and sit on it."

### Strange sounds

Posted by **Wellington Gardens**

2,735 Views

A complete fossil skull of the plesiosaur was discovered in the Urewera Ranges in 1978 by New Zealand palaeontologists Joan and Pont Wiffen.

The early reptile ate a lot of small fish to get enough food down their thin necks and "flew underwater, just like penguins do today," Cuffe said.

The plesiosaur will soon be joined by a t-rex, velociraptor, dilophosaurus and even some baby dinosaurs over easter for the Age of Dinosaurs easter event at Wellington Botanic Gardens.

Wellingtonians will be invited to travel back in time to learn about the dinosaurs, plants, and trees which lived millions of years ago in our ancient continent of Gondwana.

There will be a fossil digs, real fossils and information sessions.

The event comes with a disclaimer however, the dinosaur costumes are realistic and can be scary for very young children under 5. Parental guidance is strongly advised.



**Trade Kitchen**

@Tradekitchen

Follow

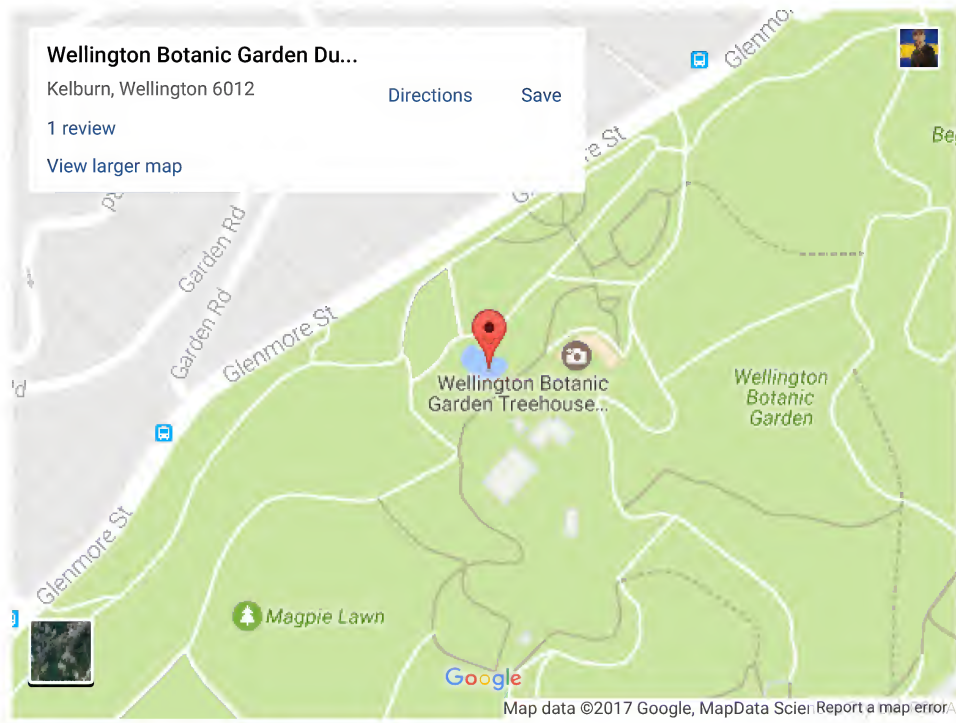
April fools? Weekend Botanical Gardens [@wellingtonista](#)

[@justin\\_lester](#)

2:27 PM - 2 Apr 2017

The Age of Dinosaurs event will run from Friday April 14 to Sunday April 23 at The Wellington Botanic Garden, admission is \$8 for kids, children under 2 free.





- Stuff

## Victorian Urban Legends: Wellington's Breeches - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

strangehistory.net

The outlandish, the anomalous and the curious from the last five thousand years

### Victorian Urban Legends: Wellington's Breeches *March 25, 2017*

Author: *Beach Combing* | in : *Modern* , *trackback*



Nice 19C story.

Mrs. Loudon was lately in the neighbourhood of Strathsfieldsaye, and being always anxious to visit spots remarkable for fine specimens of the vegetable world, and hearing that she was likely to gratify her taste at the gardens of the Duke of Wellington, she wrote to His Grace, conveying her special desire to see some 'beeches' for which the spot is celebrated. The letter was duly delivered, and, opening it with his usual promptitude, the octogenarian Duke raised his glasses, and, glancing at the contents, his eye caught hastily at the signature of the note 'C. J. Loudon,' and he at once came to the conclusion that it came from Charles James Bishop of London, more particularly as the hand-

writing of the note bore a close resemblance to that of the Right Reverend Prelate. But, whilst there was nothing very remarkable in the fact of a note from the Bishop, the object of it did raise His Grace's 'most especial wonder' ; for that same rapid glance which had converted an amiable lady into a learned Bishop, also, with a success which the very spirit of mischief, Puck, himself could not have surpassed, metamorphosed the majestic beeches of Strathfieldsaye into the nether garments of their noble owner—in fact, the note ran thus, that 'C. J. London' (the ordinary laconic mode in which Charles James Bishop of London sums up his honours and dignities) was desirous of viewing the Duke of Wellington's breeches! How the Duke looked, he eyed the note, it is not our province to picture! But, with his usual despatch,—and thinking, probably, that the request applied to the Waterloo inexpressibles, that they might be wanted for artistic purposes,—he directed his valet to look out the article and dispatch it with all polite forms to the Bishop. In due course the packet arrived at the Bishop's and the amazement with which the Prelate received, with 'Field- Marshal the-Duke of Wellington's compliments, 'his' Waterloo breeches,' may be conceived.

But the ludicrous was soon changed into the painful as the idea flashed through the Bishop's mind that all was not 'quite right' with the great veteran; and, to solve this painful doubt, off his lordship went to the Premier's to make Lord John a party to the extraordinary present he had just received. Now, it so happened that, after dispatching the parcel as above-related, the Duke himself was struck by a similar thought to the mental state of the right rev. writer, and he, too, thought his duty — though the Bishop did not come under the discipline of the Horse Guards — to report to the Premier the probable state of mind of one of the heads of the Church militant his Grace arrived most *a propos*. The Bishop was closeted with the Premier. Lord John was pondering over the mystery of the breeches, when up rode the noble owner of them, cool and collected as his own statue at Hyde Park-corner. How he and the Bishop looked at each other is,

again, one of those matters in which the imagination or the pencil must come to the duty of the pen—we commend the subject to Punch. But the climax of the scene was, that the letter — the source from whence all this mischief rose — was produced, examined, conned over, and, at last, rightly interpreted — C. J. Loudon was substituted for the Bishop of London — the beeches of Strathfieldsaye for the Duke's breeches and, to sum up all, Mrs. Loudon received by return of post a polite compliance with her request, and went and accomplished the objects of her wish without being at all aware of the perplexities in which her note had involved a Duke, a Bishop, and a Prime Minister. *Cork Examiner* (12 Jun 1850), 3

Note that this is not the end of this unlikely story. All three participants – Loudon, James and Wellington – were all alive and one, Mrs. Loudon chose to answer the charge.

Sir, In your paper of to-day you have copied a paragraph from the Weekly Despatch, in which name is mentioned in conjunction with those of the Duke of Wellington, the Bishop London, and Lord John Russell. It really seems a pity to spoil a good story; but the truth is, that it was my late husband, who about twelve years ago, wrote to the Duke of Wellington respecting some of the trees at Strathfieldsay, and was mistaken by his Grace for the bishop of London. The trees were, I think a hemlock spruce, and some other pines and firs from North America, and Mr. Loudon wished to have drawings of them for the *Arboretum Britannicum*, which he was then writing. *Cork Examiner* (14 June 1850), 2

In other words, the breeches were added in the telling.

**Other Victorian tall tales and urban legends:** drbeachcombing AT yahoo DOT com

- © 2017 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Well-known magician found dead at Magic Castle

2017-02-25

latimes.com

Ricardo DeAratanha / Los Angeles Times

A man was found dead Friday night at the Magic Castle, an exclusive private club in Hollywood that offers fine dining and magic shows.

The Magic Castle identified the man as Daryl Easton, a well-known magician who performed at the venue last week.

In a statement, the Magic Castle said Easton was an award-winning magician and that police had told the organization that he took his own life.

He had “40 years of experience in both performing and selling the finest magic in the world. Daryl performed as a headline act at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas for seven years fine tuning his already encyclopedic knowledge of magic,” the statement said. “Daryl has performed literally thousands of shows for audiences as diverse as the Witch Doctors on the South Pacific island of Vanuatu to the movers and shakers of the political world at the Presidential Ball in Washington, D.C.”

The Magic Castle, which opened in 1963, bills itself as “the most extraordinary private club in the world where history, art and elegance combine to make miracles.”

Guests must be invited or accompanied by a member and are required to adhere to a strict dress code.

Kelsey Peterjohn of Studio City had been looking forward to her first visit to the Castle on Friday but was instead met with a congested scene of police cars, a firetruck and an ambulance.

“There was a line kind of out the door of people waiting outside, and they were turned away,” she said.

Peterjohn, 24, said her group had planned to watch their friend, a magician, perform a show.

“No one seemed panicked, really, but I saw lots of security and managers whispering to each other, and they were walking around all over the place,” said Samantha Acampora, 27, of Hollywood.

### UPDATES:

**12:35 p.m.:** This article has been updated with the man’s identity and a longer statement from the Magic Castle.

**Feb. 25, 7:45 a.m.:** This article has been updated with Magic Castle statement.

**10:45 p.m.:** This article was updated with information from a patron inside the Magic Castle.

**9:35 p.m.:** This article was updated with quotes from a woman planning on attending a show at the Magic Castle.

*This article was originally published at Feb. 24 at 9:30 p.m.*

Copyright © 2017, Los Angeles Times

*Copyright (c) 2017 Los Angeles Times*

---

## The French Revolution: The Time When Time Started Over

weirdhistorian.com

For a short period in the late 18th century, France gave time a reboot. The year 1792 became Year 1. Clocks changed from having twelve hours to having ten. And seven-day weeks became ten-day weeks, with three per month. The French Revolution had kicked out the king and swept aside any traces of religion from the calendar. This was just one of the ways the new government attempted to eliminate the ancien régime (the old monarchic regime).



*A 10-hour clock from the French Revolution*

Moving to a decimal system eliminated the concept of a seven-day work week. There was no longer a day of rest on the Sabbath. Time to rest came after nine days. If it sounds rough, that's because these were rough times. The guillotine severed 2,918 Parisian heads between July 14, 1789 and October 21, 1796, often for crimes as little as sharing a negative opinion about the revolution. Victims of the blade included churchmen, magistrates, monks, financiers, lawyers, doctors, artisans, farmers, gardeners, and of course, Louis XVI and later, his wife, Marie Antionette. This means it probably wasn't a good idea to complain about the new measurement and nomenclature for time.

Here's how it worked. When the Republic was proclaimed on September 22, 1792, it was decided that that day would mark the beginning of Year 1 of the French Republic. The months were renamed to align with aspects of the seasons:

1. Vendémiaire – Month of the Vintage
2. Brumaire – Month of Fogs
3. Frimaire – Month of Frosts
4. Nivôse – Month of Snow
5. Pluviôse – Month of Rains
6. Ventôse – Month of Winds
7. Germinal – Month of Budding
8. Floréal – Month of Flowering
9. Prairial – Month when Crops Ripened
10. Messidor – Month of Harvests
11. Thermidor – Month of Heat
12. Fructidor – Month of Fruit

The twelve thirty-day months left five extra days at the end of the year, or six in leap years. These were designated as holidays:

1. Fete de la vertu (Celebration of virtue)
2. Fete du genie (Celebration of genius)
3. Fete du Travail (Celebration of labor)
4. Fete de l'opinion (Celebration of opinion)
5. Fete des recompenses (Celebration of rewards)
6. Jour de la revolution (Day of the revolution)



The days of the week received names aligning with the number of the day:

1. Primidi
2. Duodi
3. Tridi
4. Quartidi
5. Quintidi
6. Sextidi
7. Septidi
8. Octidi
9. Nonidi
10. Décadi

The Revolutionary Calendar lasted until shortly after the French Revolution ended, at Napoleon's coronation on December 2, 1804. By January 1, 1806, which otherwise would've been known as the 11th day of Nivôse, Napoleon had reinstated the Gregorian calendar. Today, its abolishment is one of the emperor's lesser known conquests.

One thing, however, remains from the Republic's decimal efforts: the metric system. Despite our efforts to not use it.

**Forty-Four Presidents, a Hippo, Two Lions, a Wallaby, Two Alligators and One Bad-Tempered Badger.**

marc hartzman 4 months ago

Weird Historian Copyright © 2017.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

**Strongman and ex-NYPD cop 'kills himself after FBI traffic stop'**

19:22 EST, 8 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

**Daily Mail****Weightlifter and former NYPD officer known as White Rhino 'shoots himself dead' after he was pulled over by the FBI in connection with a quadruple murder**

.com

**Gerard Benderoth, 48, killed himself Wednesday morning in Haverstraw, New York, multiple sources said**

- Law enforcement sources cited his friendship with ex cop Nicholas Tartaglione, who was charged with a quadruple murder last year
- Benderoth spent more than 10 years at the NYPD and was a 9/11 responder
- Decided to be 'big and strong' aged 13 after watching Conan The Barbarian
- His diet included beer as soon as he woke up and a dozen eggs in one sitting

By Clemence Michallon For Dailymail.com

A 360-pound strongman and former NYPD cop known in the weightlifting world as White Rhino killed himself Wednesday after being pulled over by the FBI, several sources have said.

Gerard Benderoth, 48, was stopped in Haverstraw, New York, around 8:20 am. He shot and killed himself as officials approached his vehicle, the North Rockland Daily Voice reported.

Law enforcement sources cited Benderoth's close friendship with former Westchester County officer Nicholas Tartaglione, who was accused of a quadruple murder in December last year.

The avid weightlifter, who was once filmed hoisting an 800-pound barbell, decided he wanted to be 'big and strong' aged 13 after watching Conan The Barbarian.

His career in law enforcement included more than 10 years at the NYPD, during which he was a 9/11 responder.

Scroll down for video



Strongman and ex-cop Gerard Benderoth (pictured), 48, killed himself Wednesday morning after being pulled over by the FBI in Haverstraw, New York, several sources said



Benderoth (pictured in uniform) became obsessed with being 'big and strong' when he was just 13 years old after watching Conan The Barbarian - and it improved his self-confidence

Residents in Haverstraw (pictured) were shocked to hear of Benderoth's death and remembered him as a 'nice guy'

Authorities didn't confirm why Benderoth had been pulled over but told the North Rockland Daily Voice about his relationship with Tartaglione, who is accused of killing four people in a drug deal gone wrong.

Tartaglione, a fellow weightlifter, was arrested and charged in December after authorities said they had dug up four bodies on

his property.

The former cop has been charged by US Attorney Preet Bharara's office with participation in a conspiracy to distribute 5 kilograms and more of cocaine and the 'senseless murders' of four men.

Tartaglione was previously involved in a feud with TV host Clay Tiffany, who accused the ex-officer of assaulting him before earning a \$1 million settlement, News 12 reported at the time.



It is unclear how Benderoth might have been connected to the case. The FBI declined to identify the strongman but confirmed to the New York Post that someone had committed suicide after being stopped.

His death occurred on a residential street, not far from an elementary school.

Benderoth recounted in a 2012 video how watching Conan The Barbarian had changed his life - and personality - by triggering his obsession with bulking up.

'Here I am, a scrawny little kid, never lifted a weight in

my life, had low self-esteem issues,' he said.

'I walked out of that movie theater with my eyes wide open, my jaw hit the floor. I walked out there and my buddy said the movie sucked. I said it was the single greatest moment of my life.

I didn't know what I wanted to do at that moment. All I knew was that I wanted to be big and strong and that's the only thing that has mattered to me since.'



The former officer (pictured) spent more than 10 years at the NYPD, during which he was a 9/11 responder. He later joined the Haverstraw police department



Law enforcement sources cited Benderoth's close friendship with former Westchester County officer Nicholas Tartaglione (pictured), who was accused of a quadruple murder in December



Among the four men Tartaglione is accused of killing are Urbano Santiago (left) and Hector Gutierrez (right). Authorities said they



dug up their bodies on the former cop's property

Tartaglione has also been charged with the murders of Miguel Sosa-Luna (left) and Martin Santos-Luna (right). The former cop is also accused of participating in a conspiracy to distribute 5 kilograms and more of cocaine





Weightlifting did wonders for his self-confidence, and he ended up being his 'number one fan' and thinking of himself as his own hero.

Benderoth, who placed high in three America's Strongest Man competitions between 2006 and 2008, was named the 10th strongest bodybuilder in the United States in 2008.

He appears in a 2010 clip lifting 185 pounds with just one arm.

The strongman, who loathed the word 'diet' and deemed it 'worse than the C-word', fueled his muscles with a daily shake of protein powder, oatmeal, milk and banana. A normal portion of eggs for breakfast was a dozen, and he sometimes had beer, 'just one beer', immediately upon waking up.

Benderoth also enjoyed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches all day long, and was known to lug them around in a cooler and share them with other weightlifters. As a cop, he sometimes enjoyed a Dunkin' Donuts run at 3am, which he called 'pretty awesome'.

'Three hundred and 60 pounds, you kinda eat what you want,' he said in a video dedicated to his nutritional habits. 'If it ain't nailed down, you eat it. If it's nailed down, you rip it up with a crowbar and you eat it.'

The former officer spent more than a decade at the NYPD before moving on to the Haverstraw department. He retired last year and lived in Stony Point with his family.

As one of the officers who responded to Ground Zero after 9/11, Benderoth spent three days pulling bodies from the site.

A longtime friend told the North Rockland Daily Voice that everyone in the community was 'shocked' by his death and called him 'a great guy' who was 'hugely popular in town'.

'Always had his kids with him, you know, just seemed like a regular, , nice guy – always pleasant to us,' deli worker Lisa Hanson told CBS New York. 'You know, just a regular guy.'

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Why astronauts are banned from getting drunk in space

By Bryan Lufkin 20 February 2017

bbc.com



### • Why astronauts are banned from getting drunk in space

From wine being sipped on the moon to whisky on a space

station, space travel has had a long and complex relationship with alcohol.

Travelling thousands of miles above the Earth, into the great inky unknown, is hard work. It's stressful and scary. So why shouldn't astronauts treat themselves to an end-of-Earth-day cocktail to unwind?

Unfortunately for space explorers looking to wet their whistle, consuming alcoholic beverages is widely prohibited by the government agencies that send them to places like the International Space Station.

But soon, everyday people might have their own chance to venture out to the final frontier — in the form of civilian trips to explore and colonise Mars. Surely booze should be permitted on such a harrowing, one-way trip that will take years to complete? Or at least equipment to ferment homebrewed beverages on the planet itself?



(Credit: Nasa)

Buzz Aldrin may have been the second man to walk on the moon, but he was the first to drink wine there (Credit: Nasa)

The truth is, booze has historically had a complicated relationship with space exploration. Let's take a look at what exactly could happen to astronauts who drink alcohol — and what might happen if we start sending more libations to humans in space.

There is a widely held belief that getting sloshed at higher altitudes makes you feel woozier faster. So it would seem

logical to assume drinking alcohol while in orbit could have even more bizarre effects on humans. But this notion may not actually be true.

In fact, there is evidence that debunks this myth that dates back to the 1980s. In 1985, the US Federal Aviation Administration conducted a study that monitored whether alcohol consumed at simulated altitudes affected performances of complex tasks and breathalyser readings.

In the study, 17 men were asked to down some vodka both at ground level and in a chamber that simulated an altitude of 12,500ft (3.7 kilometres). They were then asked to complete tasks including mental maths, tracking lights on an oscilloscope with a joystick, and a variety of other tests. The researchers found “there was no interactive effect of alcohol and altitude on either breathalyzer readings or performance scores.”



So, is getting drunk faster while flying a myth? Dave Hanson, a professor emeritus of sociology at the State University of New York at Potsdam who has researched alcohol and drinking for over 40 years, thinks it is. "I can't imagine it would be any different [drinking in space]," he says.

He does think that altitude sickness could mimic hangovers, but it could also mimic intoxication. "If people aren't adequately pressurised, they can feel intoxicated as well," he says.

People who claim to have got drunk on a plane, in a way that's faster than normal, could just be experiencing the 'think-drink' effect

Instead, people who claim to have got drunk on a plane, in a way that's faster than normal, could just be experiencing the "think-drink" effect, which has been studied extensively over the years. It suggests that people are going to act more drunk if they think they are drunk — not if they've actually been consuming alcohol.

"If people are flying on an aeroplane, and they think for whatever reason the alcohol is going to have a different effect on them, they will think that it will have a different effect on them," says Hanson.

So if there's no added physical effect, having a little nightcap aboard the ISS shouldn't be a big deal, right? Wrong.

Use of alcohol and other volatile compounds are controlled on ISS due to the impacts their compounds can have on the station's water recovery system – Daniel G Huot

"Alcohol is not permitted onboard the International Space Station for consumption," says Daniel G Huot, spokesperson for Nasa's Johnson Space Center. "Use of alcohol and other volatile compounds are controlled on ISS due to impacts their compounds can have on the station's water recovery system."

For this reason, astronauts on the space station are not even provided with products that contain alcohol, like mouthwash, perfume, or aftershave. Spilling beer during some drunken orbital hijinks could also risk damaging equipment.



(Credit: iStock)

Tests suggest the old adage that drinking at altitude while on aircraft flights increases the potency of alcohol is not actually true (Credit: iStock)

Then there is the issue of responsibility. We don't allow car drivers or jet pilots to be drunk and in charge of their vehicles, so it is hardly surprising the same rules apply to astronauts inside a \$150 billion space station travelling through a near vacuum at 17,200mph.

Yet, back in 2007, an independent panel set up by Nasa to look into the health of astronauts stated there had been at

least two astronauts in the agency's history had consumed heavy amounts of alcohol in the immediate pre-flight period, but were still permitted to fly. A subsequent review by Nasa's head of safety could find no evidence to substantiate the claims. Astronauts are strictly prohibited from drinking 12 hours before flying as they require full presence of mind and awareness.

The reason for the rules is clear. In the same 1985 FAA study on the effects of alcohol at altitude, the researchers concluded that every little bit counts. Regardless of the altitude the subjects drank at, breathalyzer readings were the same. Their performance was also equally impaired, but those who had a placebo at altitude performed worse than those who had a placebo at sea level. It suggests that altitude, regardless of alcohol consumption, can have a slight effect on mental performance. The study concludes this "serves to reduce further whatever margin of safety remains in performance skills following alcohol ingestion".

There could be another reason to avoid frothy drinks like beer – without the assistance of gravity, liquid and gases can tumble around in an astronaut's stomach, causing them to produce rather soggy burps.

Yet, despite the strict rules, it does not mean that humans in space never come into contact with fermented liquids. There have been plenty of experiments aboard the ISS that involve alcohol — but nothing involving extensive human consumption, so no one really extensively knows how the human body would react.

Apparently for the Skylab programme, they considered sending sherry with the astronauts, but it didn't test well on the zero-G flights – Stephanie Schierholz

“We do study all sorts of ways astronauts' bodies change in space, including at the microbial level,” says Stephanie Schierholz, Nasa's Press Secretary. “And we have a very robust nutrition programme to ensure their bodies get what they need to stay healthy. Apparently for the Skylab programme, they considered sending sherry with the astronauts, but it didn't test well on the zero-G flights.”

Schierholz adds the sherry used in the tests “prompted gag reflex, and the public also objected.”



(Credit: Getty Images)

Cosmonauts onboard the Russian Mir Space Station were apparently allowed small amounts of cognac (Credit: Getty Images)

Perhaps most surprisingly, the first liquid to be drunk on the surface of the moon was wine. Buzz Aldrin has said in interviews and in his book that he sipped a small amount of wine while taking communion before he and Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar lander module in 1969. The ceremony took place during a pause in communications so was never broadcast.

While Nasa has long had strict rules on alcohol in space, the Russians appear to have been more relaxed in the past. Cosmonauts on board its Mir space station were allowed small amounts of cognac and vodka. There were apparently grumblings when they found out the ISS would be dry.

Japanese brewer Suntory shipped some of its whisky to the space station as part of an experiment to monitor mellowness in alcoholic beverages in microgravity

The odd tippie, however, does still find its way onto the ISS. In 2015, Japanese brewer Suntory — which has its own Global Innovation Center — shipped some of its award-winning whisky to the space station. It was part of an experiment aimed to monitor “development of mellowness in alcoholic beverages through the use of a microgravity environment”. In other words, the way booze ages in microgravity could be different, causing it to taste better, faster. And that's something every distillery on Earth would want to learn more about.

And a few years earlier, from September 2011 to September 2014, Nasa sponsored an experiment that studied microgravity's effect on whisky and the charred oak wood that aids in the aging process. After nearly 1,000 days in space, the tannins in the whisky remained unchanged — but the space wood chips yielded higher concentrations of flavour-imparting lignin breakdown products.

In 1975 American astronauts Tom Stafford and Deke Slayton were presented with tubes apparently holding vodka during an Apollo/Soyuz link-up (Credit:Nasa/Getty Images)

“This observation has implications for not just the malt whisky industry, but those of the food and drinks industry in general,” Nasa remarked. “The difference in flavour between the ISS and control samples is so marked, that further analysis is needed to decipher the creation of the different flavors.”





(Credit:Nasa/Getty Images)

So even though astronauts are banned from drinking alcohol themselves while in orbit, the work they are doing could improve the quality of booze for consumption back here on land.

It would be a potential area of conflict, because of people's cultural backgrounds, they'll see it differently – Dave Hanson, State University of New York

With missions to Mars that will see humans away from home for years rather than months, there could now be an argument to relax some of the rules

on drinking.

Experts like Hanson, however, see no harm in continuing to prohibit alcohol. Beyond the practical safety concerns, there could be other challenges. Hanson thinks that Earthlings' many socio-cultural differences, flaring up in tight quarters for years on end, will make boozing trickier, too.

"It's a political thing. It's a cultural thing. It's not a scientific thing," he says. "It would be a potential area of conflict, because of people's cultural backgrounds, they'll see it differently." What if you're sharing quarters with Muslims, Mormons, or teetotalers? Harmonising cultural viewpoints in confined spaces for a guaranteed indefinite amount of time is something that needs "to be ironed out early on," Hanson posits.

So, it seems that astronauts will have to settle for lifting their spirits by enjoying the view out of the window rather than indulging in hard spirits while in orbit. It will be up to those of us left behind to make sure a proper amount of champagne is ready and awaiting to toast their homecoming.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



## Indian wife burned alive after hospital 'mistakenly declares her dead'

04:43 EST, 2 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

An Indian woman was burnt to death in a funeral pyre - hours after doctors had pronounced her dead, it has been claimed.

Medics said the 24-year-old, named as Rachna Sisodia, had died of a lung infection at Sharda hospital in Greater Noida, in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state.

Her husband Devesh Chaudhary, 23, took possession of her body at 1.27am and drove with it and some friends to a funeral pyre location in Aligarh, two hours away, where at 8am they began to cremate her.

But there are reports that somebody then dragged the woman off the funeral pyre, believing her to be still alive.

A woman named as Rachna Sisodia (left) was accidentally burnt to death in a funeral pyre after doctors wrongly pronounced her dead hours earlier, it has been claimed. She is pictured with husband Devesh Chaudhary

She showed no signs of life thereafter but a post-mortem examination showed charred particles in her windpipe and lungs, say police, which would not have been present if she had not been breathing.

Two doctors working together said the cause of death was not lung infection but in fact 'shock caused by being burnt alive'.

Rajesh Pandey, a senior police superintendent, told local media of the doctors' verdict.

A police spokesman added: 'This happens when someone is burnt alive. The particles go inside with the breath. If a person is dead, such particles cannot reach the lungs and the windpipe. So, the doctors concluded that the woman was burnt alive on the pyre.'

Medics said the 24-year-old, named as Rachna Sisodia, had died of a lung infection at Sharda hospital in Greater Noida, in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state. Indian women's rights campaigners are pictured during a demonstration last year

In another development, the dead woman's maternal uncle Kailash Singh has reportedly accused her husband and ten others of sexually assaulting and killing her.

Police are taking the accusations seriously but all the men have disappeared, they say.

However, the doctors at Sharda maintain that Rachna did in fact die at their hospital and post-mortem doctor Pankaj Mishra says he cannot even be sure that the body he examined was that of Rachna, due to the extent of the burns on it.

Devesh told local media, from an unknown location, that his in-laws were trying to frame him and his relatives in a bid to acquire his property.

Doctors have also preserved a piece of bone for conducting DNA tests, which was handed over to the police. They did not say when DNA test results would be available.

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Woman drove with man's body stuck in windscreen for two miles [sundayworld.com](http://www.sundayworld.com)

---

<http://www.sundayworld.com/news/crime-world/woman-drove-with-mans-body-stuck-in-windscreen-for-two-miles>

**A substance abuse counsellor who struck a man with her car and drove two miles with his body embedded in her windscreen has been jailed for 25 years to life.**

Sherri Wilkins had pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and two drink-driving counts.

Wilkins, 55, had been found guilty at a 2014 trial on similar charges but an appeal court threw out the conviction last year because her entire criminal history had been admitted at trial and could have prejudiced the jury.

She had received the stiffer sentence of 55 years to life before her appeal.

Prosecutors then refiled charges and Wilkins pleaded no contest.

In 2012, Wilkins was driving home through Torrance, California, when her car hit and killed Phillip Moreno, 31.

She drove more than two miles with his half-naked body embedded in the windscreen and his upper body face-down on the bonnet before other drivers confronted her at a traffic light, according to court records.

Wilkins told them Mr Moreno seemed to jump in front of the car.

She drank three shots of vodka and a beer in her car before driving but the defence argued there had not been enough time for her blood-alcohol level to exceed the legal limit.

Investigators said Wilkins' blood-alcohol level was about twice that limit one and a half hours after the crash.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## 'Witch' performs exorcism with heads of dolls after 'demon causes car crash'

By Danya Bazaraa 09:55, 6 APR 2017 Updated 12:29, 6 APR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

**The woman reportedly believed that a car accident which claimed the lives of four people could not have been as a result of human factors alone**



A so-called witch performed a public exorcism using herbs and heads of dolls after claiming a demon caused a high speed fatal car crash.

The woman named as Zulema, who practices witchcraft, believes the cause of a car accident which reportedly killed four people in a BMW was a 'demonic entity'.

The main suspect was said to have consumed an excess amount of

alcohol before the incident in Reforma, Mexico on March 30.

But the 'witch' felt that the speed with which the car was going must have been down to a supernatural power, [adn40](#) reports.



So, to counteract the effect of the powers, she performed an exorcism at the scene of the accident.

In the footage, she is seen lighting a bunch of herbs with a black candle as crowds watch.

She also uses turpentine and the heads of two dolls as elements of her exorcism, to drive away the demon from the area and avoid further tragedy.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Witches Plan To Cast Mass Spell Against Donald Trump

huffingtonpost.com

### The key ingredient to the ritual: An unflattering photo of the president.

By David Moye

Donald Trump's presidency has cast a pall over the nation, so now witches are casting a spell against him.

A document making its rounds among the witch community is asking people who practice the craft to perform a monthly binding ritual until the president is removed from office.

In order to work, the mass spell must be performed at midnight EST on every waning crescent moon.

The first one is happening on Friday and will be followed by similar spell cast events on March 26, April 24 and May 23 and beyond.

Unless, of course, Trump is cast out of office before then.

Michael M. Hughes, who writes about the paranormal, posted the spell at ExtraNewsFeed last week.

He stressed that a binding spell is different than a curse or hex.

"It's a restraint, not harm," Hughes told The Huffington Post. "I see it as self-defense."

Hughes said he heard that two separate witch groups were planning the spells and asked if he could take it to a wider audience.

The spell instructions have gone viral, and there is a group on Facebook dedicated to answering all the questions people may have.

Performing the spell takes a good deal of dedication, including amassing the following:

- Unflattering photo of Trump
- Tower tarot card
- Tiny stub of an orange candle or orange carrot
- A pin or small nail (to inscribe candle)
- White candle (any size), representing the element of Fire
- Small bowl of water, representing elemental Water
- Small bowl of salt, representing elemental Earth
- Feather (any), representing the element of Air
- Matches or lighter
- Ashtray or dish of sand

Practitioners are supposed to prepare for by writing "Donald J. Trump" on the orange candle stub with a pin or nail. They then arrange the other items in a circle and lean the Tower card against something so that it's standing up.

Hughes suggests reading the 23rd Psalm aloud before beginning the spell by lighting a white candle.

The complete spell can be read here, but some of the lines include:

*"Hear me, oh spirits  
Of Water, Earth, Fire, and Air  
Heavenly hosts  
Demons of the infernal realms  
And spirits of the ancestors  
(Light inscribed orange candle stub)  
I call upon you  
To bind  
Donald J. Trump  
So that he may fail utterly  
That he may do no harm  
To any human soul  
Nor any tree  
Animal  
Rock  
Stream  
or Sea"*

Next, practitioners are supposed to burn the photo with the orange candle, chanting "So mote it be." But if that sounds a little too "witchy," Hughes says a simple "You're fired!" will also work. The spell is completed by burying the candle stub or carrot, or discarding it in running water.

When the ceremony is over, Hughes says it's crucial to ground yourself by laughing loud and hearty since, "Trump *hates* people laughing at him."

He admits the spell has a satirical element, but insists that "doesn't invalidate it."

"I'm OK with people calling it a stunt," he said. "The spell can still be effective. I think it's already working. Some Christian groups are calling for a day of prayer to counteract the spell. That's magic, right there. When people do a ritual, that's changing consciousness."

Kevin Ambrose, a writer at Christian Nationalism, suggests people protesting the spell recite the 23rd Psalm, coincidentally the same biblical passage recommended by Hughes.

As satisfying as a mass spell might seem for Trump detractors, proving it has an effect is another thing altogether.

After all, any bad luck Trump experiences after the spell can be attributed to the spell without being disproven.

Hughes concedes that but think the actual ritual is therapeutic in and of itself.

"If people feel more empowered and less beaten down, that's valid," he said.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.



Getty Images

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Witnesses: Men wearing Trump masks duked it out in Lowe's

yahoo.com

**AP** Associated Press January 4, 2017

**Assc**  
**Pres** RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Police say shoppers were mystified and alarmed when two young men wearing Donald Trump masks began boxing one another inside a Virginia Lowe's store on New Year's Eve.

Officers were summoned to the store Saturday afternoon because of a "disorderly display that scared customers," Henrico County Police Capt. Chris Eley told the Richmond Times-Dispatch (<http://bit.ly/2iaMJ5K>).

Henrico police have said little about the incident. However, 59-year-old witness Michael Willis told the newspaper he saw the men hitting each other while yelling, "Donald Trump! Donald Trump!" The men fell and knocked down merchandise in the process, Willis said.

"I mean, these people, they were hitting," Willis said. "If they was acting, they was doing a good job on it."

Willis said he called police because he feared they might be robbers.

But he said one young man who returned to retrieve some keys that were dropped during the fight told him they were just trying to have some fun.

No arrests were immediately made.

In Virginia, a person over the age of 16 can be charged with a felony for wearing a mask in certain circumstances, including on private property when the owner of the property hasn't given permission. Willis and another unnamed witness guessed the boxers were in their early-20s.

---

Information from: Richmond Times-Dispatch, <http://www.timesdispatch.com>

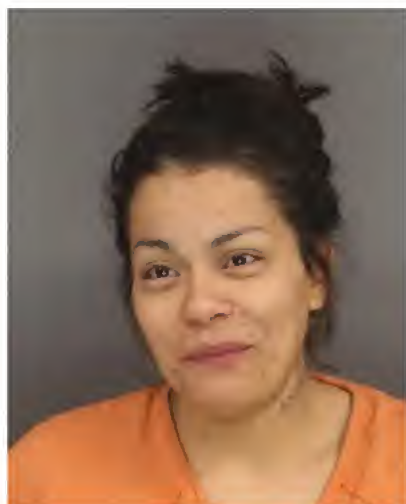
---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman Allegedly Steals Truck, Shows Up At Sebastian County Sheriff's Office To Ask If It Was Reported Stolen

5newsonline.com

Posted 4:10 pm, January 25, 2017, by Kate JordanUpdated at 05:34PM, January 25, 2017



FORT SMITH (KFSM) — A woman is in jail after she reportedly stole a truck in Jonesboro, drove it to the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office and asked if it was reported stolen, according to an arrest report.

Adriana Salas, 26, was arrested late Tuesday (Jan. 24) on suspicion of felony theft by receiving of more than \$5,000, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The arrest report states Salas showed up at the Sheriff's Office and asked dispatchers if the truck she was driving was stolen.

A deputy arrived to speak with Salas, ran the truck information in a crime database and found it was reported stolen out of Jonesboro, according to the report.

The deputy read Salas her Miranda Rights and asked how she obtained the truck. Salas explained to the deputy she stayed in Jonesboro for a week with a friend. The two got into a fight and she stole his truck and headed to Fort Smith, the report states.

After explaining that, Salas slightly changed her story and told the deputy the truck wasn't registered to her friend, but to another man, according to the report.

Salas continued explaining she showed up at the Sheriff's Office because her cellphone died while traveling and once it was charged, she received a text message from the registered owner stating that the truck was reported stolen, the report also states.

The deputy asked Salas if she wanted to call her friend to find out if this was a misunderstanding. She reportedly responded by telling the deputy her friend wouldn't be able to get in touch with the registered owner because they were asleep.

She was subsequently arrested and remained Wednesday (Jan. 25) in the Sebastian County Detention Center in lieu of a \$7,500 bond.

The charge she faces is a Class C felony punishable by three to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000 or less, according to Arkansas statutes.

KFSM Online Public File • KXNW Online Public File • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy

• 318 North 13th Street Fort Smith, AR 72901

• Copyright © 2017, KFSM

• A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman develops second skeleton as muscles turn to bone

metro.co.uk

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/03/16/woman-develops-second-skeleton-as-muscles-turn-to-bone-6513272/>

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.uk Thursday 16 Mar 2017 4:11 pm



Aged 11, her second skeleton started to develop (Picture: Jasmin Floyd/Caters)

A woman is attempting to fulfill her bucket list before her ultra-rare condition takes away her ability to move.

Jasmin Floyd from Danielson in Connecticut, USA, is battling Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP) – a disorder that causes bone to form in her muscles, creating a second skeleton.

The 23-year-old was diagnosed with the condition – of which there are only 800 recorded cases worldwide – aged five, after suffering agonising pains in her neck.

Over the years, Jasmin's muscles have gradually turned into bone – meaning she's already lost mobility in her jaw, neck, shoulders, elbows and hips.

During some of her worst flare-ups she struggles with intense pain.



Jasmin has an ultra-rare condition that causes bone to form in her muscles (Picture: Jasmin Floyd/Caters)



She wants to complete her bucket list (Picture: Jasmin Floyd/Caters)

Jasmin also finds it difficult to speak and eat, as she can only open her mouth one

centimetre wide.

The condition is slowly restricting her ability to walk and at times confines her to a wheelchair.

But undeterred by her problems, she's determined to fulfill her bucket list of traveling and other experiences before her condition fully immobilises her.



Jasmin said: 'The extra bone that has grown in my joints, is causing severe limited mobility, they describe it as bone forming over the joints, locking them in and impairing mobility.'

'My spine is severely affected with scoliosis, the bone grows somewhere it shouldn't and for me it's been more active in my upper body.'

'Due to FOP's progression, I've lost full mobility in my neck and jaw and partial mobility in my shoulders, elbows and hips.'

'Last summer I went through an elbow flare-up and couldn't unbend it without easing it with an ice pack.'



She was diagnosed age five (Picture: Jasmin Floyd/Caters)

'At the same time, I was also losing mobility in my jaw, which made everything much more difficult.'

'The conditions often described as stone man syndrome, referring to the extra bone and it's like a person is turning into stone.'

'Because my condition is so unpredictable it's encouraging me to do everything I want to while I can.'

Due to the extra bone growths in her joints and the second skeleton that is forming, Jasmin can't lift her arms above her shoulder.

She added: 'I try to be as independent as I can. I have a hard time bending and can tell I'm losing the ability to move as easily.'

'One of the hardest parts is trying not to be afraid of this condition, it's so unpredictable that I can never expect what will happen next.'

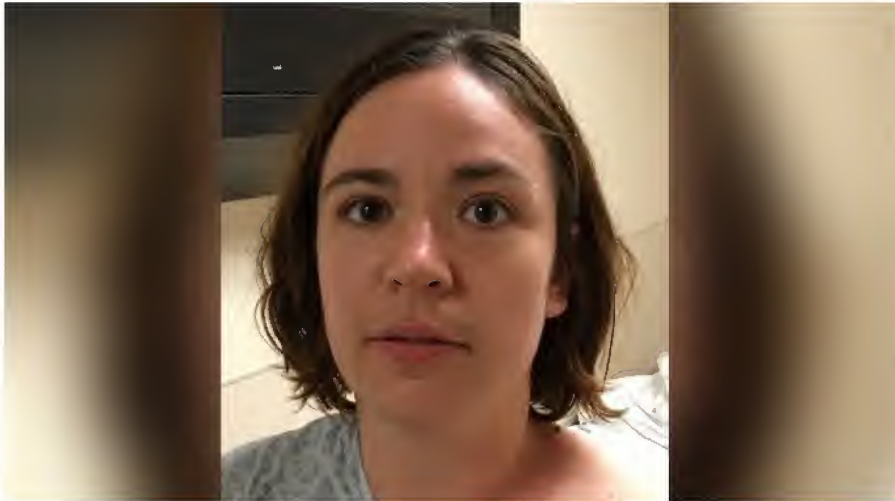
Jasmin is now fundraising to purchase mobility aids that will enable her to travel easier as well as ease her daily life.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Police: Woman found wet and nearly naked, claiming to be a mermaid

wtvr.com



FRESNO, Calif. – Local authorities are asking for help identifying a nearly naked woman found wandering down a Fresno, California street Tuesday morning.

The woman's hair was wet when she was found around 3 a.m., and she told officers that she was a mermaid, and that her name was Joanna, according to the Fresno Police Department.

The woman, who has two webbed toes on both feet, told officers that she had been in the water, but replied "I don't know" to "most questions," police said.

She is 5-foot-4, weighs about 150 pounds and has brown eyes and brown hair. She was found walking down the middle of Millerton Road across from the Eagle Spring Golf & Country Club, about a mile south of Table Mountain.

Anyone with information about her identity is asked to call (559) 621-2455 or email the missing persons unit Detective Paul Hill at paul.hill@fresno.gov.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman holds her broken heart after life-saving transplant

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.uk Sunday 19 Feb 2017 8:21 am



Woman holds her broken heart after life-saving transplant

Lisa Salberg had one unusual request after her operation (Picture: Sarah Vrabilk)

**A woman held her broken heart in her hands after it was removed in a life-saving transplant.**

Lisa Salberg, 48, was diagnosed with a dangerous form of heart disease at just 12 years old and has undergone multiple operations to keep it beating.

Last year, her heart began to fail and she was left with no choice but to have a heart

transplant. But before going under the knife, Lisa had one usual request – she asked doctors to keep her heart so she could hold it.

‘I was struck by the density and the weight to it. It was really, really heavy,’ she said.



Lisa suffers from a dangerous form of heart disease (Picture: Sarah Vrabilk)

Lisa, from New Jersey, suffers from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an inherited condition where the muscle wall of the heart becomes thickened, making it harder to pump blood.

Her sister died from the disease and at least five other family members have been diagnosed.

In a bid to raise funds for research, Lisa started the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association.

Talking about her damaged heart, she told ABC: ‘We were friends for 48 years.’

‘It [was] with me every moment of the day of my life. It was nice to be able to say goodbye.

‘I have an entire life ahead of me to find ways to improve people’s health, and I’m doubling down. You ain’t seen nothing yet.’

### More about hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

For the majority of people with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy the condition does not limit the quality or duration of life, but some could be at risk of sudden death.



Between 600,000 and 1.5 million people suffer with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in the US, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

In the UK, heart disease kills more than 73,000 people each year.

To learn more about Lisa's work, visit Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association.

For support in the UK, visit Cardiomyopathy UK.

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## Woman's ashes DUG UP as feuding family complains to Church

12:11 EST, 1 March 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

# Daily Mail

.com

Mother whose ashes were buried alongside her parents despite a family feud will be DUG UP after other relatives complained to Church authorities

The remains of Joyce King will be exhumed from St Mary's churchyard in Suffolk

- Some family argued she should be separated from her parents amid a feud
- Religious judge ruled that while it would be 'distressing' for her family, the correct permissions had not been sought

By Scott Campbell For Mailonline

A woman's ashes that were buried in the grave of her parents amid a bitter family feud will be dug up after warring relatives complained to Church officials.

The remains of Joyce King will be exhumed from St Mary's churchyard in Suffolk just five months after they were placed there.

A judge ruled that while it would be 'distressing' for her family, the correct permissions had not been sought before her burial.

Her daughters Gloria Worman and Angela Munns had begged officials at a religious court hearing to keep their mother's remains in the plot.



The remains of Joyce King will now be removed from the grave of her parents, pictured above, in St Mary's churchyard, Suffolk

But other members of the family - including Mrs Joyce's own sister - argued she should be separated from her parents because of a family row before her death that had 'caused distress' among relatives.

The unique case was heard by judge David Etherington QC at the Church of England's Consistory Court for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

He ruled that Mrs King's remains should now be dug up and moved out of the grave of her parents William and Mary Haynes.

The request that the ashes should be exhumed came from Evelyn Julier, Mrs Joyce's sister, and Robert Haynes and David Julier, grandsons of the late Mr and Mrs Haynes.

Judge Etherington said: 'The two sides of the family do not share the same view as to whether the remains of Joyce King should be interred in this plot and hold differing and strongly opposing views about it,' he said.

The senior church official said he was satisfied that Mrs Joyce's daughter had not acted improperly in seeking to have her mother's ashes interred in the grave.



The Church of England court judge ruled that while the exhumation would be 'distressing' the correct permissions had not been sought before the burial at St Mary's in Polstead (above)

He rejected claims that Mr Haynes had made it clear that the grave was intended only for him and his wife who had died before him.

Judge Etherington added: 'I do not find it could conceivably be said that she was seeking to inter her mother in this plot

secretly.'

But ruling that the exhumation should take place he said that one of the grounds for such a move would be if a mistake had been made during the initial burial.

He held that the family had failed to seek permission from the Consistory Court on the burial in light of their differing views on where the remains should be interred - something that was a mistake.

Judge Etherington said he accepted it was a 'distressing outcome' for Mrs Joyce's daughters and their families who had followed the advice they had been given by the church authorities.

He ruled that Mrs Joyce's family should be entitled to be at the exhumation and that her ashes should then be kept in the church until a decision was reached as to what should be done with them.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



## Women's prison mass jail break after inmates in dominatrix gear handcuff male guards expecting 'mass orgy'

By Matt Roper 12:30, 7 FEB 2015 Updated 08:38, 9 FEB 2015 News

mirror.co.uk

### Police found three wardens naked and handcuffed inside the Nova Mutum public jail, near Cuiaba, central Brazil



Twenty-eight inmates escaped from a Brazilian jail after three women in fantasy police costumes "seduced" prison wardens, it was reported today.

Police found three wardens naked and handcuffed inside the Nova Mutum public jail, near Cuiaba, central Brazil, the morning after the mass break-out.

The women reportedly drugged the prison guards by giving them spiked whisky after convincing them to take

*Video thumbnail, Women's prison mass jail break after inmates in dominatrix gear handcuff male guards expecting 'mass orgy'*

part in an orgy, according to investigators.

Inmates then left the prison through the main doors, even taking with them guns and munitions they had taken from prison caches.



*Inmates seducing prison wardens*

Police later found a bag of lingerie and dominatrix police uniforms believed to have been worn by the temptresses.

Last night photos of one the naked wardens, believed to have been leaked by amused police officers who found him, had been shared thousands of times on social network sites.

The three women - one of them reportedly the girlfriend of one of the prisoners who escaped - arrived at the prison at 3am on Thursday morning and asked to be let inside to "chat and drink", police said.

The prison guards reportedly obliged and were soon persuaded to leave their posts, accompanying the girls to staff sleeping quarters.

After drugging the wardens the women handcuffed them, took their keys and unlocked all the prison's cells, according to chief Angelina de Andrades Ferreira.

She told a news conference: "The plan was to seduce them. They served them cheap whisky with some substance to knock them out, then unlocked the central gate which accesses the internal cells.

"Whoever wanted to escape left by the front door.



*Inmates seducing prison wardens*

"From the moment they drank the whisky the agents don't remember a thing. One was found dizzy, trying to wake up. Another slept for the whole afternoon and couldn't even be questioned."

The inmates took three 12 caliber rifles shotguns, two 38 caliber revolvers and munition, she said.

Ms Ferreira said the escape was planned by the boyfriend of one of the women, Bruno Amorim, 18, was was serving time for attempted murder, robbery and firearms possession.

She said: "Everything indicated that he planned and executed everything, with the help of his girlfriend."

She said the three prison officers had been arrested and will be charged with "facilitating a jailbreak" and "culpable embezzlement" because of the theft of firearms.

Last night eight of the 28 prisoners had been recaptured as police launched a massive operation to track down the fugitives.

One inmate was found wandering around the centre of Nova Mutum in a drunken state, holding one of the stolen rifles.

Another was caught after stealing a pick-up truck from a farm and crashing it, police said.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

---

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

## This Frenchman just made a working Citroën 2CV out of wood

thelocal.fr



The Local

24 March 2017

15:09 CET+01:00

A retired cabinet maker in central France has handbuilt a wooden 2CV Citroen Car... which is about to pass its first technical inspection. The car, built as an exact one to one replica to the famed Citroen 2CV, was put together over six years by retiree Michel Robillard.

It was made in a Touraine fruitwood and is considered to be unique in the world.

And it's fully equipped to take the road.

Robillard has said he hopes the vehicle will one day go on display in an art gallery.

Check it out.











/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }



# World-first as man crosses Atlantic Ocean unaided on paddle board

🕒 Updated 8:09 AM ET, Thu March 9, 2017



## Photos:

Chris Bertish approaching English Harbour, Antigua on the morning of March 9.

1 of 9

Hide C

**(CNN)** — South African watersport pro Chris Bertish has just nailed a world first: he's crossed the Atlantic solo, unassisted and unsupported, on a stand-up paddle board.

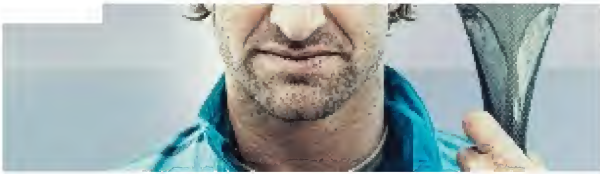
Yes, that's one of those surfboard-like contraptions you've probably fallen off on vacation. And yes, we mean the real, genuinely-ferocious ocean that's claimed sailors' lives since man first decided to strap wooden planks together and take to the seas.



The big-wave surfer and Guinness World Record holder crossed 4,500 nautical miles, setting off from Agadir,

Sports +

Live TV



Chris Bertish.

Bertish's stand-up paddleboard (SUP) may not be an off-the shelf job -- it's a custom-made, 1,360-pound, 20-foot-long vessel fitted with a tiny cabin and solar panels -- but that doesn't mean the journey was any less daunting.

For 93 days Bertish has paddled the equivalent of a marathon a day, skirting the Canary Islands before heading into the open ocean and aiming for the Caribbean. Along the way he also set the record for the furthest distance traveled solo, unsupported and unassisted over open ocean in a day (71.96 miles).



Bertish's custom-made SUP included a host of tech to support the 94 day journey -- including shark deterrent.



He celebrated [Christmas aboard](#) and rang in the New Year with [a dram of scotch](#). Keeping a captain's log on Facebook, Bertish has posted his encounters with puffer fish and turtles, cargo ships and yachts -- the latter dropping off a bag of treats for the paddler and money for Bertish's charitable causes.

Working with charities Signature of Hope Trust, the Lunchbox Foundation and Operation Smile, Bertish aims to raise enough money to build at least five schools in South Africa, provide monthly dividends to feed and educate thousands of children and pay for surgeons to carry out life-changing cleft lip and





Bertish is also known as a big wave surfer who has competed all over the world.

The trans-Atlantic crossing is only the latest feat in the South African's career. Previously he's surfed some of the biggest waves ever recorded (he won the Maverick Big Wave Invitational, California 2010, on borrowed equipment, no less), set the world record for open ocean 12-hour nonstop SUP in South Africa, 2013, and set the fastest time crossing the English Channel on an SUP in 2013 (5 hours, 26 minutes).



Writing on Facebook, the South African's inspirational attitude suggests there will be plenty more record-breaking escapades to come:

"The more time I can spend in the ocean, in any shape or form, the better. I'm a waterman and the ocean is my inspiration. It's where I truly feel alive, comfortable, content, happy and free," he says.

"Nothing is impossible, unless you believe it to be."

**Related Article:** Has one of nature's great mysteries been solved?



Sports +

Live TV

## World's most expensive burger sells for \$10,000

wtvr.com



DUBAI — A juicy burger has sold at a charity auction in Dubai... for \$10,000.

Asma Al Fahim, founder of Dubai lifestyle magazine Villa 88, phoned in the winning bid.

The giant burger contained seven beef patties — one for each of the emirates in the United Arab Emirates — aged cheddar cheese and veal bacon strips in a saffron brioche bun.

It was prepared by Russell Impiazzi, culinary director at Le Gourmet in Dubai's Galeries Lafayette, and a member of Qatar's royal

family, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani.

"Two years ago we broke the world record by selling one burger for \$7,000, and this year we wanted to top that," Al Thani said in a statement. "All proceeds will go to breast cancer awareness and free detection at an earlier stage."



The auction was run by Pink Caravan, which campaigns to raise awareness of breast cancer. Al Fahim said she wanted to support a good cause and honor former Pink Caravan director Ameera bin Karam ,who died in a house fire last year.

The pricey burger was one of four that were auctioned, alongside several other dishes. The sale raised a total of \$29,633.

*/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*



A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, March 18, 2017

### *Little Murders*



Commerce on the busy intersection of Twenty-Fourth and J Streets, in Omaha, Nebraska, was interrupted, the evening of October 16, by the crack of three pistol shots. A young woman fired once in the air, trying to get the attention of the man who had just walked away from her. When he continued walking without turning around, she aimed at his back and fired again. Then she pointed the revolver at her own head and fired a third shot. Two bodies fell to the pavement.

Both were still alive and were quickly taken to Presbyterian Hospital. The man was Henry J. Reiser, a well-known, single, man-about-town, connected to the Armour meat packing company. The shot had severed his spinal cord, and he was not expected to live. The woman was Mrs. Eloise Rutiger, a prominent Omaha social leader, whose husband was also associated with Armour. The bullet had only grazed her head, and she was in no danger.

"Is he dead yet?" Mrs. Rudiger asked when she came to in the hospital, "Yes, I shot to kill. It was for my husband to do, but he would not, so I did it myself. The wretch has given me enough cause, and I hope I have accomplished what I undertook."

Henry Reiser had come to America from Germany, ten years earlier. He was from an aristocratic family and was often referred to as Baron Henry Reiser. He first settled in Chicago where he became a packing-house promoter then moved to Omaha to work for Armour. He met Eloise Rutiger through her husband two years before the shooting.

Mrs. Rudiger was instantly fascinated and eventually seduced, by the handsome young baron. He had a "marvelous influence" over her—a "mesmeric power" she would later say—which seems to have been noticed by everyone except her husband.

"I loved the man at first and do not deny it." Mrs. Rudiger said, but their relationship did not run smoothly. Reiser, at times, became abusive. Once he fractured her ribs, and she begged the



physician who treated her not to tell her husband.

Eventually, guilt overcame the power over Reiser had over her and Mrs. Rutiger told her husband about the affair. Mr. Rudiger wanted to divorce his wife and went to Reiser asking if he would admit to adultery so they could settle the matter quietly. Reiser refused, so Eloise Rutiger went to Reiser and asked him herself. When he refused again, she shot him and tried to shoot herself.

Henry Riser clung to life for nearly two months, but his death was inevitable. When he died in December, Eloise Rutiger was indicted for first-degree murder.

The courtroom was filled to capacity when Eloise Rudiger's trial began in March 1894, and public sentiment was generally in her favor. She pled self-defense, citing Reiser's hypnotic control over her. The jury deliberated for four days, sleeping when they could, in chairs or on the floor. They could not reach an agreement; seven wanted to convict and five to acquit. Two of the five would convict if the charges were reduced to manslaughter, but the remaining three were unyielding. The trial ended in a hung jury.

The case was tried again in June, and this time Mrs. Rudiger was acquitted. Her husband stood by her through both trials and during her ordeal they had reconciled. After the verdict was read, Mr. and Mrs. Rudiger left the courtroom together.

---

#### Sources:

- "Died of his Wounds," *Logansport Reporter*, December 16, 1893.
- "Dressed to Kill," *Omaha World-Herald*, March 19, 1894.
- "Given to the Jury," *St. Louis Republic*, June 9, 1894.
- "Henry J. Reiser Dead," *Daily Inter Ocean*, December 16, 1893.
- "A Married Woman Kills her Lover," *National Police Gazette*, November 18, 1893.
- "Mrs. Rudiger Acquitted," *Elkhart Daily Review*, June 13, 1894.
- "Mrs. Rudiger Killed Him," *New York Herald*, October 28, 1893.
- "Mrs. Rudiger of Omaha," *Galveston Daily News*, October 28, 1893.
- "Reiser's case is Hopeless," *Omaha World-Herald*, November 10, 1893.
- "Shot Her Seducer," *Salem Daily News*, October 27, 1893.
- "Sorry for the Jury," *Omaha World-Herald*, March 27, 1894.

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

---

/\* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/.en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; }.en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Young teenager 'freaked out' after spotting mysterious ghost man in her selfie

By Kara O'Neill 10:10, 1 MAR 2017 Updated 10:34, 1 MAR 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A young teenage girl was "freaked out" when she spotted a mysterious 'ghost man' in her selfie, taken while on a fishing trip with her grandparents.

Haley Ogletree, 13, was spending the day with family to celebrate her brother's birthday.

But after taking a commemorative snap of the occasion, Haley, from Georgia, US, spotted something sinister in the back of her photograph.

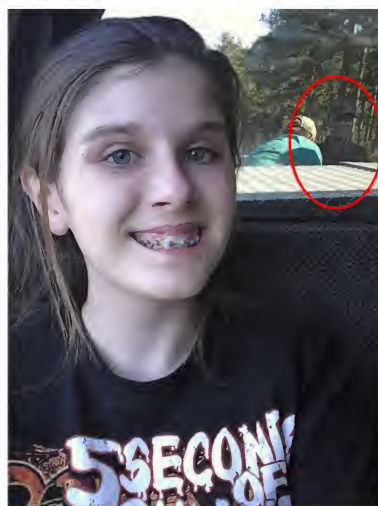
If you look closely, standing on the right of Haley's brother appears to be the shadowy figure of a man, wearing a cap and a collared shirt, and smiling for the camera.



But mysteriously, the family claim there was no one else with them on the trip, and certainly not standing with them by their vehicle.

In fact, Haley and her grandparents didn't see anyone else fishing near them in the area all day.

On Facebook, Haley's mother, Jessica Ogletree wrote: "FB friends check this out! This picture was taken by my 13-year-old daughter earlier today at Paradise (the fishing place) in Tifton, Georgia.



"Notice my son Kolton in the background and then notice the gentleman standing to his right.

"Y'all, this gentleman was NOT with them today and there was no one else at these back ponds where they were fishing.

"The only people there today were Haley, Kolton, and their grandparents Dennis and Vera Baldree.



*The ghostly figure*

"Haley was going back through her pictures and saw this, and needless to say freaked out and called me.

"I personally think it's pretty cool because today is Kolton's birthday and he caught the biggest fish he's ever caught. It looks like the man is happy for him!"

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

## Bodies go missing after mortuary is evacuated following 'chemical leak'

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.uk Monday 20 Mar 2017 6:56 am

A mortuary has apologised to people whose loved ones were being stored there after they were evacuated following a chemical leak.

Staff at the mortuary in Bournemouth, Dorset, closed the building leading to the mix-up as the bodies were being moved.

Council bosses ordered for them to be sent to hospitals across Dorset and were allegedly sent to Hampshire, Wiltshire and Devon.

However, grieving families say they don't know where their loved ones' bodies have been moved to.

One man mourning the death of his wife said: 'I'm on my own now and I didn't know where to turn. I could not get any information.

'They told me that arrangements were being made for the post mortem examination to be carried out elsewhere, possibly in Southampton, Salisbury or Swindon. Then I was told that it would be carried out in Dorchester.'

In a letter to the him, Bournemouth Borough Council officials said that the mortuary had been closed since February 15 when a number of staff members became unwell. However, the authority did not reveal the nature of their illnesses.

'Since that time investigations have continued to be undertaken to determine the potential causes that necessitated the closure. The local authority is doing everything it can to ensure that the mortuary is fully operational as soon as possible,' the letter continued.

The grieving man added: 'I haven't been able to to inform people about her funeral and the lack of communication has caused a great deal of worry. My wife has just died so I am in a bad enough situation anyway without this making it all so much worse. There must be a lot of other people affected in the same way. I just think it is totally wrong.'

Tony Williams, the council's chief executive said that remedial works were being carried out to re-open the mortuary as soon as possible.

'Alternative arrangements have been made so that post mortem examinations can be carried out elsewhere within the county and at neighbouring authorities,' he said.

'Some inevitable delays have occurred. We would like to apologise to the family's of the deceased and to others affected and thank them for their patience and understanding as we work to resolve this situation.'

/\* Copyright 2014 Evemote Corporation. All rights reserved. \*/ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }